

REPORT
ON
B U D H U K
ALIAS
B A G R E E D E C O I T S
AND OTHER
GANG ROBBERS BY HEREDITARY PROFESSION
AND ON
THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FOR THEIR SUPPRESSION.

BY
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BENGAL ARMY.

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ERRATA.

Page	9 Line	26 for "sent" read "set"
"	13 "	31 " "assisted" read "asserted"
"	26 "	17 " "to those who have much shall be given" read "to those who have much, much shall be given"
"	27 "	5 " "etiners" read "et iners"—"posses" read "possis"
"	45 "	2 " "I should have the benefit" read "I should have had the benefit"
"	51 "	21 " "Mihudee" read "Mihndee"
"	68 "	38 " "uncle" read "uncles"
"	80 "	33 " "hastily" read "lustily"
"	81 "	29 " "fusee" read "fuse"
"	83 "	34 " "carrying of bullocks" read "carrying-bullocks"
"	86 "	5 " "two hundred and fifty thousand rupees in gold," <i>dele</i> "in gold"
"	88 "	37 " "have drawn" read "had drawn"
"	99 "	5 " "Hoosee" read "Koosee"
"	119 "	39 " "depended the truth" read "depended on their truth"
"	122 "	13 " "Miterban" read "Miherban"
"	123 "	12 " "arraigned" read "arranged"
"	132 "	39 " "together, we had had" read "together? We have had"
"	147 "	37 " "separate" read "separated"
"	160 "	16 second column, for "To me <i>Munheem</i> " read "To me <i>Munheen</i> "
"	" "	19 " " "To them <i>Pelaan, Teehoon</i> " read "To it <i>Teenheen</i> "
"	" "	20 " " "They <i>Tue, Tehonon</i> " read "They <i>Pela</i> "
"	176 "	17 for "Mehnnoo Khan" read "Mehndoo Khan"
"	178 "	20 " "intercepted" read "intersected"
"	184 "	40 " "or the Rabtee" read "on the Rabtee"
"	188 "	41 " "east" read "west"
"	195 "	8 " "rigour" read "vigour"
"	204 "	1 " "station of Goruckpoor; though persuaded" read "station of Goruckpoor. Though persuaded"
"	205 "	15 " "connives" read "connivers"
"	208 "	21 " "or specific charges" read "on specific charges"
"	237 "	2 " "Sauseea Dacoits" read "Sanseea Decoits"
"	238 "	18 " "seem" read "seemed"
"	239 "	25 " "from Banda; on the day fixed" read "from Banda. On the day fixed"
"	240 "	31 " "Chuckore" read "Chuckore's"
"	286 "	14 " "named" read "married"
"	331 "	34 " "Katpootlee" read "Kotepootlee"
"	332 "	25 " "Jehagpoor" read "Jehajpoor"

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No. 24 of 1848.

FROM COLONEL W. H. SLEEMAN,

*Genl. Superintendent of Operations for the
Suppression of Thuggee,*

TO H. M. ELLIOT, ESQUIRE,

Secretary to the Government of India.

DATED JHANSI, THE 20TH MAY, 1848.

SIR,

For submission to the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, I have the honor to transmit a Report on the Bagree, Sauseea and other Decoits of India, by hereditary profession, and on the measures that have been adopted for their suppression, with their results.

2. These measures are the same as those which were in operation for the suppression of Thug Associations throughout India, and the same means have been employed under the same Superintending Officers and the same general supervision, so that the Report may be considered as descriptive of the mode in which both systems of depredation have been or are being put down.

3. The Thug Associations and their system have been already described by me in Reports submitted to Government, and printed under its authority; but the measures adopted and carried out for their suppression have never been fully explained in any of these Reports. In describing, therefore, those in operation for the suppression of the Decoit Associations, I have entered into greater detail than I should had I had any former detailed explanation to refer to. For the same reason, I have here given the whole of the enactments passed by the Legislative Council of India to secure the great object in view,—the relief of the people from two great evils under which they had for so many ages suffered; and in two tables I have given the result of the commitments for trial of the Thugs and Decoits arrested in all parts of India, save in Bengal proper, where the measures have been for some years under the supervision of the Superintendent of Police in the Lower Provinces, Mr. Dampier.

4. I may mention that this Report, in a much more imperfect form, was, on the recommendation of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant Governor of the N. W. Provinces, and with the sanction of the Supreme Government, in the Press so long ago as 1840 ; but the Governor General, Lord Auckland, seemed to me to be of opinion, that the proper time for its appearance had not yet arrived, inasmuch as it could not fully show the measures in progress for the suppression of the great evils which it tended to expose ; and the papers were, in consequence, withdrawn from the Press, and returned to me for revision at some future period. No relaxation was, however, permitted in the pursuit of the offenders, though the pressure of heavy current duties prevented my devoting any time to a revision of the Report for re-submission to Government till the last cold season.

5. It is, perhaps, the last elaborate Report on crime in India, that I shall have the honor to submit ; and it is not very likely that any other public servant will have the opportunities that I have had, of being admitted behind the scenes to so familiar an acquaintance with the acts, thoughts and feelings of the persons, who have, for the last half century, taken the most prominent parts in the drama of crime exhibited, or with the views and circumstances which have led to the several Legislative enactments passed, and the other measures adopted for the suppression of the evils described. I have, therefore, deemed it to be my duty to place before Government, as full a description as I am able to give of the evils which it wished to have remedied, and a plain unvarnished statement of what has been done to remedy them, and how and by whom it has been done. My best care and ability have been devoted to it ; but the Report has been drawn up under the pressure of many other heavy and important duties, and with a feeling of interest in the details so much abated by time, and the habit of going over them so often in the performance of every day work, that I can hardly be a good judge of what may and what may not be interesting to others. Much has, therefore, no doubt been introduced that might have been better omitted, and much omitted that could have been introduced with advantage, even under the restrictions imposed upon me by a sense of duty to others who have been associated with me in the work, and to Government.

6. The old Thug Associations, which have been now effectually put down in all parts of India, except the Punjab, to which our operations have not yet been extended, would assuredly rise up again, and flourish under the assurance of religious sanction, and the strong and almost irresistible, disposition of the loose characters of the lowest class in India, who have no property, to associate under such assurances for

the purpose of taking what they require from those who have it; and new ones would be every where formed, were the strength of the special police, employed in the suppression, hastily reduced, or its vigilance relaxed. The class of poisoners by profession, so common and so destructive to life in all parts of India, has now been brought under the cognizance of this police by Act III. of 1848, with a fair prospect of being, under judicious management, effectually put down like the other classes of Thugs. Some few smaller classes of robbers by hereditary profession, remain untouched in all parts of India, while the more formidable classes can as yet be considered as only partially put down.

7. A benevolent Government, like that of India, which rules paternally, and cannot rule otherwise in India, will not permit an establishment which has done and is doing so much good for the people under its sway, to be diminished in strength or in efficiency, till the work intrusted to it shall have been completed, which it cannot be for many years; and the advantage of having at all times accessible a Report showing what has been done up to this time, and the mode in which it has been done, will, I trust, be considered by His Lordship in Council sufficient to compensate for much of its imperfection. It is seldom that the person first selected by Government to superintend measures for the suppression of evils of such great magnitude, can hope, in any country, much less in India, to be so long spared and permitted as I have been, to watch over their progress towards a successful issue; and it is no less seldom that they have in India, after the lapse of such a time, the leisure, the means or the inclination, to draw up such a record, imperfect as it is, as this which I have now the honor to submit, of what was required, what has been done, and what still remains to be done, before the object which Government has had in view can be fully attained.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. H. SLEEMAN,

Genl. Supt. for the Suppression of Thuggee.

CHAPTER I.

INSTITUTION OF THE COURT FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF DACOITIES—MR. R. M. BIRD'S VIEWS.

On the 13th of April 1837, the office of Commissioner for the Suppression of Dacoitee, was created by the then Lieutenant Governor, North Western Provinces, Sir Charles Metcalfe ; and Mr. Hugh Fraser, of the Bengal Civil Service, an active and energetic officer, was appointed to conduct the duties. Instructions for his guidance were conveyed in the Secretary's letter of the 22d of that month : It states, that the object of his appointment, was the suppression of the crime of Decoitee, or gang robbery, perpetrated by violence, most frequently by night, and often attended with bloodshed : that these outrages were understood to be generally committed by organised bands of depredators, who resided at a distance from the scene of their atrocities, but were enabled by the extensive means of information they possessed, to ascertain where plunder could be most easily found : that the suddenness of their attack, enabled them to overpower resistance at the time, while their immediate dispersion after success, effectually baffled all pursuit : that the extent of country over which their depredations extended, and the rapidity of their movements, offered various impediments to any successful exertions, on the part of the local Magistrates, to prevent their attacks, or to bring the offenders to punishment, after the perpetration of their crimes : that to meet the difficulty, it had been resolved to vest the Commissioner with sufficient powers to enable him, by a well directed system of research, to seek out these criminals, in their usual haunts ; to lay open their whole proceedings, and economy ; to track their steps, whenever they might set out on their expeditions ; to prevent, if possible, their success, or at any rate, to pursue them afterwards wherever they might fly, and ~~to~~ to punish and suppress them.

To enable him to effect all these objects, the Commissioner was invested with co-ordinate powers as Magistrate throughout the whole of the North-Western Provinces ; and the Magistrates were ordered to co-operate with him, and to act with alacrity, on any information that he might convey to them. The whole of the local police were directed to assist his Agents, and to pay immediate attention to any requisitions which he might address to them. The commitments of offenders for trial, were to be made, as in ordinary course, by the Magistrates of districts ; but the Commissioner was at liberty at any time to take into his own hands, the conduct of any case, which might appear to him to require it. Should he ascertain, that any bands of Decoits had designs upon foreign States, or had penetrated into, or found shelter or protection within them, the Commissioner was to report the same to Government for orders ; and he had authority to confer rewards to the extent of one hundred rupees, for good service in any particular case, and to submit applications to Government for higher rewards, when they might appear to him to be necessary. His Establishments were framed upon a liberal scale ; and he was directed, from time to time, to report to Government such information as he might be able to collect, regarding the object of his appointment.

At that time, little or nothing was known to Government or any of its Officers, of the character or economy of this class of offenders. Decoities were every day committed, and the circumstances attending them reported to Government by the Magistrates, and other functionaries ; but whence the perpetrators came, and whither they fled with their booty, remained unknown. It was however understood, that they resided for the most part in the kingdom of Oude, along the banks of the Chumbul, in Gwalior and Rajpootanah, in the Native State of Alwur, in Rohilcund, and in some districts between the Ganges and Jumna ; but all information regarding their location and habits, was vague and uncertain. Every body talked of Buduk Decoits, and their daring robberies, but no one knew, who or what they were, whence they came, or how their system was organized.

On the 12th of November 1822, Mr. R. M. Bird, the Magistrate of the Geruckpoor district, which bordered on the kingdom of Oude to the east, was, under a resolution of Government, called upon to explain, how the number of Decoities within the district under his charge, had so much increased during the preceding year 1821. In his reply of the 24th December 1822, he referred Government to a Report he had submitted on the subject on the 11th April of that year, and stated that the perpetrators of the Decoities referred to in his districts, were not inhabitants of any part of the British territories but an

organised Banditti from a foreign State (Oude) ; and that the course necessary to be adopted for the suppression of this crime, though perfectly easy, in his opinion, to the Supreme Government, was beyond the competence of the Magistrates of Districts, and altogether foreign to the duties of the local Police ;—that the utmost that could be expected from a native Police Officer was, that he should possess full and accurate information respecting the inhabitants of his own little circle ;—that it would be unreasonable to expect from him, that he should possess sources of intelligence in foreign States, and no less so to suppose that ten undisciplined men, half of whom are usually absent on duty, should commit themselves, in mortal conflict, with a body of one hundred, or one hundred and fifty well armed Banditti—the latter too, having all the advantages of a free choice of time, place, and circumstance ;—that he had taken charge of the district only in December 1820, and might have supposed the increase of Decoities to be connected with his want of local experience, had he not found, when the rapid occurrence of Decoities called his attention to the subject, that no system of information, or resistance, had ever been arranged ;—and that in no single instance had a Decoit been committed for trial, or apprehended through the agency of the Police. That this odious crime should be put down, and the perpetrators punished, no man could feel more strongly than he did ; but he submitted, that it was not the local Magistrate, and still less the Native Police, to whose office the responsibility of this duty was attached, or within whose competence it was placed ; “ Non tali auxilio nec defensoribus istis tempus egit,”—that that authority alone, which possessed the power of coercion over dependent, and influence over friendly States, could effectuate the extirpation of the crime of Decoitee in the districts bordering on Oude, and relieve the suffering inhabitants of our own provinces, from this cruel scourge.

Mr. Bird further observed, that while desirous strongly to press his views on this subject on the notice of Government, he was anxious also to obviate misapprehension—that he did not most anxiously apply all his circumscribed means to oppose this crying evil ; that his mind during the year 1821 had been anxiously directed to the subject, and while at the Presidency in the end of that year, he had pressed on the attention of every member of Government to whom he had access, the sufferings of the people from the prevalence of this crime, and the necessity of applying an effectual remedy ; that on his return to his district, he arranged with the people a system of mutual co-operation and assistance, but that its benefits remained still to be proved by results ; and he must beg leave again to press on the notice of Government, that to destroy the hydra head was a Herculean task ; that until the Govern-

ment of Oude should be persuaded, or compelled, to adopt vigorous and effectual measures, or until the British Government should arm its Officers on the borders with powers commensurate with the exigency, any application of the limited means at the disposal of a Magistrate could only be of the nature of an expedient—that the evil must be fostered by continued impunity and success, and if its infancy should be neglected, must attain a magnitude, requiring other exertions for its suppression.

On the 10th of the same month, Mr. Bird reports to Government, that while his letter of the 5th was under the hand of the copyist, an instance had occurred in proof of the insufficiency of the means hitherto used to put down the practice of Decoities—that a party consisting of a Corporal and four Sepahees, and four Troopers, escorting a despatch of treasure, amounting to upwards of twelve thousand rupees, on its way from the Native Collector's treasury at Budrauna to Goruckpoor, had been attacked the preceding day before daybreak by a gang of Decoits armed with matchlocks and spears; that the Naik was shot dead, the party overpowered, and the treasure carried off. Captain Martin, who commanded the troops at the station, and first heard of this attack, employed all the Infantry and Cavalry at his disposal, to co-operate with the police in pursuit of the robbers. Mr. Bird sent parties to all the ferries over the rivers, and he himself, with the ex-Rajah of Butwul, and a party of extra police, did all in his power to cut them off from the forest, but all was in vain, not a man was taken, nor a rupee recovered.

Mr. Bird takes advantage of this occasion again to press on the notice of Government, the arguments he had before submitted for its consideration in favor of some special measure for the suppression of this great evil, under which society suffered so much; and urges, that the only effectual means appears to him to be, to break their combination by attacking and destroying their well-known haunts in the forest where they lodge, and dispose of their booty; where their arrangements are made; whence they issue forth, and to which they return as a point of union;—that he hopes Government will one day, see the justice and necessity of taking the course recommended by him—the only course which can in his opinion put down the system;—that his honest concern for his own reputation as a Magistrate weighs light indeed with him, in the scale, in comparison with his earnest desire to see the district relieved from this cruel scourge;—that there was no degree of personal exertion of which he was capable, that he would not cheerfully undergo to have his share in promoting so important an object; that the “*dignus vindictæ motus*” has, he thinks, been clearly, ——— out; and that the means were, in his judgment, in the hands of Government alone.

Government was not satisfied, that the measures recommended, would be effectual; and none were, in consequence, adopted. The attack (described by Mr. Bird) on the treasure escort, was made by a gang of Baduk Decoits from the Oude Turae or forest, under two leaders of some note, Ghureeba and Lullee, a little before daybreak on the 9th of December 1822. The affair is thus described by Ghureeba, in the narrative of his life taken down by me in June 1840.

"About eighteen years ago, Lutee Jemadar sent a messenger to me to say that he should like to join me in an expedition, and I went to him with Jugdewn and Toka to settle the preliminaries. The first day was spent in feasting, and nothing was said about business. On the following day he told me that remittances of Government treasure went every month from Peppole to Goruckpoor, and if we were prudent, we might get some of it. It had however been ascertained, that four Troopers and ten or twelve Sipahes always accompanied these remittances, and we should, we thought, lose some men in the attack, and have some taken, unless we could prevent the Troopers from galloping off to give the alarm. It was discovered in the reconnoissance that the treasure had to pass through a jungle, which was too thick to admit of people on horseback, going off the high road. It was settled that the attack should take place there; that we should have strong ropes tied across the road in front, and fastened to trees on both sides, and at a certain distance behind, similar ropes fastened to trees on one side, and ready to be fastened on the other, as soon as the escort of horse and foot should get well in between them.

"Having settled all preliminaries, we sent out a gang of forty; we had ten matchlocks, ten swords and twenty-five spears. Going on a couple of coss, we sent forward two men to Peppole, with orders to give us notice when the treasure should set out; we followed by slow stages through the jungle, and four days after came upon the road by which the treasure had to pass. Here we rested one day, but heard nothing of the treasure; the day after we sent a third man, who met the treasure escort, and returned to us. In the evening we fixed on our ropes as we had proposed, and set down to the right and left of the interval all night. About five in the morning we heard a voice as if calling upon the name of God (Allah), and one of the gang started up at the sound and said, 'Here comes the treasure!' We put five men in front with their matchlocks loaded not with ball but shot, that we might, if possible, avoid killing any body. When we had got the Troopers, Infantry and treasure, all within the space, the fixed ropes were run across the road, and made fast to the trees on the opposite side, and we opened a fire in upon the party from all sides. The ~~gang~~ got into the jungle at the

sides of the road, and the Troopers tried to get over the ropes at both ends, but in vain. We in the meantime took up the twelve thousand rupees, and returned home as fast as we could, leaving the party in the net we had made for them. I know not who got shot lodged in them, but it was poured in upon them thickly from all sides till they gave up the treasure."

*

This part of Ghureeba's narrative was sent to the Magistrate, who stated on the 16th of June 1840, that a sum of money amounting to above twelve thousand five hundred rupees, on its way from the Native Collector's treasury at Bidrona to Goruckpoor, under an escort of five Troopers, a Corporal and party of Sipahes from the 23d Regiment, halted on the night of the 8th December 1822, at Bharaech. They left this place after midnight, and on entering a patch of jungle, three of the Troopers were in advance and two in the rear, while the Corporal and his party of Sipahes, kept close to the treasure. As they passed along, they suddenly found themselves enclosed in a net by a gang of robbers, who fired in upon them from all sides, and then rushed in upon them with great shouts. The Corporal, Abtee Sing, was killed, two of the Troopers were severely wounded, and a third had his horse killed under him. The whole of the treasure was taken off; and all search after the robbers then made by the Officer Commanding the Regiment, and the civil authorities, was fruitless.

Such daring attacks, by gangs from this great family of professional and hereditary robbers, were frequent in all parts of India. No district between the Berhampooter, the Nerbudda, the Suttledge, and the Him-maleh Mountains, was free from them; and within this vast field hardly any wealthy merchant or manufacturer, could feel himself secure for a single night, from the depredations of Budhuk Dacoits. They had successfully attacked so many of the treasuries of our Native Collectors of Revenue, that it was deemed necessary, all over the North Western Provinces, to surround them all with extensive fortifications. In many cases, as in that above mentioned, they carried off our public treasure from strong parties of our regular Troops and mounted Police; and no one seemed to know whence they came, or whither they fled with the booty acquired. No Magistrate who heard of a dacoitee, indicating the hand of a Budhuk, could hope that any efforts on his part to catch or trace him, would be successful, whatever means he might have at command.

In 1822, while I had civil charge of the district of Nursingpoor in the Nerbudda Valley, a party of about thirty persons, in the dusk of the evening, with nothing seemingly but walking sticks in their hands,

passed the picquet of Sipahes under a Native Commissioned Officer, which stood on the bank of a rivulet, separating the Cantonments from the town of Nursingpoor. On being challenged by the Sentries, they said they were Cowherds, who had been out with their cattle which were following close behind. They walked up the street; and coming opposite the houses of the most wealthy merchants, they set their torches in a blaze by a sudden blow upon the pots containing combustibles, stabbed every body who ventured to move or make the slightest noise, plundered the houses, and in ten minutes were away with their booty, leaving about twelve persons dead and wounded on the ground. I was close at hand, and had large parties of mounted and foot Police sent out in all directions from this central point; but could never seize, or trace one of the gang, or discover who they were or whence they came. It was in the month of February, when marriage processions take place every day, in all large towns, the nights are long, and much money is circulated in the purchase of cotton, in all cotton districts like that of Nursingpoor. There was a large police guard within twenty paces of the decoitee on one side and this picquet of Sepahes, within one hundred paces on the other. Both saw the blaze of the torches and heard the noise, but both took them to be from a marriage procession; and the first intimation given of the real character of the party, was by a little boy, who had crept along a ditch unobserved by the Decoits, and half dead from fright, whispered to the Officer commanding, that they were robbers, and had killed his father. Before the Officer could get his men ready, all were gone, and nothing more was ever heard of them till I got behind the scenes some twenty years afterwards, and became acquainted with the whole Dramatis Personæ of these fearful exhibitions.

The following is the letter to Government of the 11th of April 1822, to which Mr. Bird referred for information on the subject of these gangs of systematic robbers.

Zillah Goruckpoor, 11th April, 1822.

To H. T. PRINSEP, Esquire,

Acting Chief Secy. to Government,

Fert William.

SIR,

I consider it my duty to bring to the immediate notice of Government, the utter insecurity to persons and property in this district, from circumstances arising out of the wretched state of Police, in the contiguous territory of Oude.

2nd. Enclosed is a list of property plundered, and of persons killed and wounded, in the perpetration of decoities committed in this district since January 1821, comprising seventeen killed and fifty-seven wounded. The dreadful waste of human life incurred, for the sake of so small a booty, cannot fail to force itself on the notice of Government as the permanent feature of these attacks.

3rd. They have been clearly shewn to have been perpetrated by the Seah Murwas, who haunt the jungles of Bulrampoor and Utroulah. The banditti in making these attacks act on the principle of inspiring terror. They make descents at night, in parties of from 50 to 100, armed with spears,—their first step is to stab every man, woman and child, within their reach. The suddenness of their attack precludes every hope of successful resistance. The affair is over in half an hour, when they disperse and return, and the cover of the jungles, the darkness of the night, and the vicinity of the foreign territory, entirely preclude pursuit.

4th. The predatory habits of these men ; their establishment under elected Chiefs ; the vast amount of property plundered, and of human life destroyed by them in every part of the Bengal Presidency, and the impossibility of coping with them by any of the ordinary means at the disposal of a Magistrate, must be well known to Government.

5th. Government must also be well aware, that they are protected and supported by the Zemindars, who share in the booty, and are entitled to their assistance in carrying on their feuds with each other, or maintaining opposition to the aumils of the Oude Government ; and that the aumils of the Oude Government can by no means be induced to use any effectual measures for their apprehension or suppression.

6th. I can at all times obtain information of the haunts and movements of the various parties. I find no difficulty in purchasing plundered property from various parts of India ; as a specimen, it is sufficient to say, that I sent to the Magistrate of Behar, Dollars which had been plundered in his district ; but my power goes not beyond procuring information.

7th. In the beginning of 1817, the Superintendent of Police circulated a letter addressed by Colonel Baillie to Mr. Fortescue, then Magistrate of Allahabad, conveying permission to call on the Commandants of the British forces in Oude, to seize offenders against the British Government, on the requisition of British Magistrates, under certain stipulations.

8th. That letter, however, though circulated by the Superintendent of Police, apparently with a view to the course laid down in it being adopted in all analogous cases, holds out no hope of relief to the evils under which this district labours, for several reasons.

1st. It appears to me to have been a special permission given to the Magistrate of Allahabad alone; at any rate, never to have been communicated to Officers Commanding Detachments in Oude as a general rule, since very lately, when I applied to Major Faithful, then encamped across the Dewah, to seize some Decoits whose apprehension I had for fifteen months been vainly endeavouring to effect, and who were within ten miles of his camp, he declined on the ground of want of instructions.

2ndly. It is required that the names and residences of the persons, for whose apprehension the requisition is made, should be contained in the requisition, and that a statement of them should be communicated in confidence to the head of the Oude Government. But it is obvious neither of these requisitions can be complied with in the case of a horde of nameless freebooters, banded under a chief, roaming through the forests, and continually changing their haunts.

3rdly. The station of the nearest British Detachment is at too great a distance from the haunts of these banditti, to afford any hope of siezing them by surprise.

9th. Yet here is a horde of organised banditti; trained under regular leaders; established within a few miles of the British territory, and committing continual depredations on those whose life and property the British Government is bound to protect; of a force with which the civil establishment of the district is utterly insufficient to cope, and which alike defies the authority of the Government within whose territory it is established, and of that against which its incursions are directed. This appears to me to be a summary of the grounds on which the justice and policy of the military punishment directed against the Pindaries, have been triumphantly assisted; and the same arguments appear to me to authorise and require the same measures to be directed against the equally detestable, though less powerful, community of Seah Murwas.

10th. On the failure of all other means within my power, I had lately recourse to the step of endeavouring to organise an opposition among the population of the quarter most exposed to these incursions. The Zemindars of the three pergunnahs whom I consulted, appeared to enter with great readiness into my views; but from the suddenness of the

attack; the facility of retreat through a country overgrown with under-wood, in the dark, and the certainty of being beyond the boundary of our territory before dawn, I cannot anticipate any successful result.

11th. On the occasion of a late decoitee which occurred at the house of Kadir Buksh Pindaree, at Guneshpoor, papers and other unsaleable property were found in a jungle within the territory of Oude, and an inhabitant of that jungle offered, for a trifling reward, to point out the freebooters with the valuables in their possession; but as he declined proceeding without the presence of a strong military force, no steps could be taken.

12th. In short, grievous as it is to a Magistrate responsible for the security of life and property in his district, to hear the friends of the dead and the wounded, in numbers scarce inferior to the casualties of a campaign, invoking his assistance, he can point to no remedy but patience; and until he shall be authorized to pursue with military force into the Oude territories, or until military force shall be employed under some authority to break the musters, and beat up the quarters, of those freebooters, no exertions of the local Magistracy can be of any avail.

13th. It is also desirable that a Regulation should be passed authorising the Magistrates or the Court of Circuit, to sentence to a term of imprisonment, any Seah Murwas who may be found in parties, armed or otherwise, within the British boundaries.

14th. Unarmed parties are continually apprehended, but as it is impossible to prove by external evidence the purpose with which they came, they are, under the utmost rigour of the present law, liable only to be marched back the distance of ten or fifteen miles, and then released, to advance again at their own convenience.

I have, &c.

(Signed) • R. M. BIRD,
Magistrate.

GORUCKPOOR MAGISTRACY,
The 11th April, 1822.

CHAPTER II.

Before Government called upon Mr. Bird for a report upon the atrocities committed by these gangs within his district of Goruckpoor, they had sustained some heavy losses from the energy and activity of Mehudee Ali Khan, the Governor of Bharaech and Khyrabad, one of the best Officers that the Oude Government has ever had. In April 1818, a gang of about eighty Decoits left the jungles in the Bulrampoor Pergunna, on the eastern border of the Oude forest, under two noted leaders, Naeka, the son of the *great* Kulunder, and Madeea. Near Bharaech they discovered that a despatch of treasure, amounting to about twenty-six thousand rupees in silver, and four hundred goldmohurs, had been sent from that place on two carts across the Surjoo river, towards the General Treasury at Lucknow. They followed, and crossing the river at the same ferry, learnt that the treasure had been lodged before the gate of the little Fort of Ramnugur Dhumeeree, belonging to Rajah Soorut Sing, a large landholder of Oude, about twenty-five miles distant.

Naeka, being a skilful and provident leader like his father, secured as they went along, from blacksmiths on the road, a chain and two large nails, as he knew the gate of the Fort, and had seen the two guns which always stood before it outside. At a short distance to the north west of the Fort, they disencumbered themselves of all superfluous clothes, and proceeded to the attack of the treasure, which was escorted by a party of only thirty of the King's troops. Twenty of the gang were directed to fix the chain on the gate and stand by to see that none of the garrison came out, while twenty went to spike and stand by the guns, which had been loaded to protect the treasure. Forty attacked the escort ; and after killing and wounding four of them, they possessed themselves of the treasure, and retired, having only two men wounded. After re-crossing the Surjoo river, they rested, and at night were attacked by two powerful landholders, Bhowanee Buksh and Inderjeet, who dispersed them, and took off twenty thousand of the rupees, with all the gold mohurs.

Mehudee Ali Khan, the Governor of the district, by whom the treasure had been despatched, hearing of this, sent a force and seized the

two landholders, and pursuing the gang into the forest, secured about sixty of them with their leader Naeka. All were confined for six years in the Jail at Seetapoor. Hearing that the British authorities were interesting themselves in the release of the two landholders, the Governor released them, on their paying him what they had taken from the robbers, and some twenty thousand rupees more ; and Naeka and all the survivors of his party managed to get for him, from their friends, some ten thousand rupees more, with which they purchased their ransom.

This robbery took place in April 1818 ; and in May 1819, a gang under Tara, from Dhera Jugdispoor, on the western border of the Oude forest, joined another under Bukshee, the son of Ruteeram, from Gora Bulrampoor on the eastern border, in an attack upon the house of Sah Beharee Lal, one of the greatest bankers in India, in the midst of the City of Lucknow. After collecting all the information required for such an enterprise, and settling the proportions in which the spoil should be divided among the several parties engaged, they took the auspices ; and on the night of the 18th May 1819, made the attack, and carried off forty-two thousand rupees, without having a man killed, wounded, or taken. On reaching their bivouac in the forest in the Bungur district, not far from Khyrabad, which was under the Government of Mehudee Ali Khan, a dispute took place between the two leaders about the division of the booty, in spite of all the oaths and precautions which had been taken before entering upon the enterprise.

The bad feeling to which this gave rise, was increased by the conduct of Bukshee's foster brother Busawun, who had seduced the daughter of Tara, while they were engaged in the negotiations which preceded the attack ; and Tara, to revenge this injury, and the attempt to defraud him of part of the booty, went off to Lucknow, and reported the whole affair to the Minister, Aga Meer. He sent information to Mehudee Ali Khan, who lost no time in sending a strong force of cavalry and infantry, which surprised the colony while they were still engaged in the angry discussion about the seduction and the division of the booty. They seized two hundred men, women, and children, and among the rest, Bukshee's father Rutteeram, the patriarch of the colony, with his mother and five brothers. Bukshee himself, with his sixth brother Rambul, and some others, effected their escape ; but Rutteeram and his old wife and their five sons, were taken off with the rest, to Lucknow. The old couple are still at Lucknow, having been released by Captain Paton on their parole in 1839. He (Rutteeram) is now above one hundred years of age, but is said by Captain Hollings to have still a very distinct recollection of the decoitee affairs, in which he was engaged some sixty or seventy years ago.

In 1834, these prisoners attacked the king of Oude's Guard at the Jail, and about seventy of the able-bodied men effected their escape, with the loss of three killed, and two severely wounded. The rest remained with the old and infirm, and the women and children, who were all released by Captain Paton in 1839.

In the beginning of 1818, Maherban, his brother Cheydee, and his uncle Pasee, set out from Khyraddee in the Oude Turae, with a gang of fifty Budhuks, in the disguise of bird-catchers. They had with them falcons and hawks of all kinds, well trained, also mynas, parrots, and other kinds of speaking and mocking birds. At Rae Bareilly in Oude, they were joined by another small gang, and all proceeded in pursuit of some treasure, on its way from Benares to the westward, laden upon seven ponies, under charge of a guard of twenty-four Burkundazes. It was determined to attack the treasure party where they lodged at Chobee-ka-serae, between Allahabad and Cawnpoor, in the Futtehpoor district. A boat had been purchased to keep along the bank of the river, ready to take over the party after the attack, and in this the women and children were all landed on the Oude side of the river, opposite the Serae. Maherban, with two or three select men, kept with the treasure in disguise till he saw it safely lodged for the night, when he returned to his gang to make arrangements for the attack. Ladders, torches, and handles for the spear-heads and axes had been provided in the usual way, and two hours after dark they scaled the wall of the Serae, and a guard, which had been told off for the purpose, broke open the gate from the inside, and stood over it, to prevent any attack from without or escape from within, while the rest attacked the escort and secured the treasure. They killed six persons of the guard, wounded seventeen, and took off seventy-thousand Rupees. A Havildar and a Sepahee of the Hon'ble Company's service, who happened to be present in the Serae, were killed among the rest. They crossed the river in the boat, and taking their women and children, returned to the Oude forest at Khyraddee, without losing a man.

In the latter end of that year, 1818, Maherban and his brother again set out, and assembled their friends on the bank of the Bisoree river, where the rate at which each leader should share, in proportion to the number of his followers, was first determined; and then the share which each member should have of the portion assigned to his chief. (This is done to secure to the dependents of any one who may fall in the enterprise his due share, as well as to prevent inconvenient disputes during and after the expedition.) The party assembled on this occasion, including women and children, amounted to two hundred, and when the shares had been determined, ten goats were sacrificed for the feast. Each leader and member of the gang dipped his finger in the blood, and

swore fidelity to his engagements and to his associates, under all circumstances. The whole feasted together, and drank freely till the next evening, when Maherban advanced with about twenty of the principal persons, to a spot chosen a little way from the camp on the road they proposed to take in the expedition, and lifting up his hands in supplication, said aloud, "If it be thy will, O God, and thine, Kalee, to prosper our undertaking for the sake of the blind and the lame, the widow and the orphan, who depend upon our exertions for subsistence, vouchsafe, we pray thee, the call of the female jackal." All his followers held up their hands in the same manner, and repeated these words after him. All then sat down and waited in silence for the reply, or spoke only in whispers. The female jackal was heard three times on the left; and believing her to have been inspired by the deity for their guidance, they were all much rejoiced, and Maherban sent off five of the party, with four bearers, to purchase and bring the palankeen of a man of rank, (which character he was to represent on the occasion), to carry his second wife, Sojuneea, who was to accompany him. He had no less than seven of them. The principal, Moneea, never accompanied her husband on such occasions.

On reaching Benares, the gang put up in three different places frequented by pilgrims, and remained a month, making their offerings to the different shrines, while their scouts were making their enquiries about the mints and mercantile establishments, as to intended despatches of treasure and other valuables. As soon as they had completed their devotions, they heard of the despatch of a cart-load of treasure, under an escort of Burkundazes, for the West; and sending on four scouts to keep company with it, they followed in small parties. On reaching Josee, in the Allahabad district, the treasure party put up in the Seræ, while the gang concentrated in a grove, four miles distant. They had provided themselves at villages along the road with walking sticks, to be used as handles for their axes and spear-heads, and on the night of the 1st December 1818, leaving the palankeen and all superfluous clothes in the grove, they advanced to the attack. It was about midnight when they reached the place. The gate was open, and one party told off for the purpose, remained to guard it; another placed itself over the Police guard, while the rest attacked the treasure escort, and possessed themselves of the treasure, amounting to above twenty thousand Spanish Dollars. The treasure escort made off, but Kaem Khan, a merchant who lodged that night in the Seræ, tried to rally them, and so laid about him with a long straight sword, that the gang threw down the treasure and drew back. Two were wounded, and seven or eight of their spears were severed in pieces by this brave man. He called in vain, however, for support; and at last one of the gang got behind him unperceived,

and felled him with a blow on the head with his bludgeon. He fell and was killed, and several more having been wounded, the gang retired with twenty of the thirty bags of Spanish Dollars, leaving eight on the ground containing five thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven Dollars, which were the next morning taken to the Magistrate, and by him restored to the merchants, Dowlut Row and Rugonath Row, of Benares. All admired the bearing of the brave Kaem Khan, and regretted the necessity of destroying him in order to secure the treasure. The gang moved as fast as they could all night, taking their wounded men along with them on their shoulders. In the morning they got their wounds dressed at a village on the road, and one who was still unable to walk, was put into the palankeen. The others walked, and they reached Maherban's Fort at Etwa in the Oude Forest, without further accident. Each of the two wounded men got one hundred rupees over and above his share for "mulumputtee," or dressing and surgical attendance, and the rest of the treasure was all duly distributed according to previous engagements.

On the 26th of May 1819, Cheyda, the brother of Maherban, with his separate gang, attacked another cart laden with treasure, on its way from the house of Gungapersaud and Hurgewun Das at Benares, to the West, at Gopee Gunje in the Mirzapoor district, and after killing five, and wounding four of the escort, he carried off nine thousand rupees. Maherban remained at home, and this intermediate success of his brother Cheyda, created some dissatisfaction among his followers. Ghureeba, his friend, who commanded a gang in another part of the same forest, states in his narrative, "that Maherban was a very remarkable man and a distinguished leader, but success had rendered him somewhat indolent ; and while he thus indulged in the pleasures of home and the sports of the field, his many wives and followers became dissatisfied from want of the usual excitement and money. One day while he was sitting with two of his wives, Mooneea and Soojanee, they taunted him on the long interval of rest he had enjoyed, while his more active brother had been covering his followers and family with honor and money. 'You have,' said Soojanee, 'been now some ten months without attempting any enterprise worthy your reputation; you are at your ease, and indulging in sports, no doubt very agreeable to you, but without any honor or profit to us, while these your followers, men of illustrious birth and great courage, are suffering from want and anxiety about their families. They have been told of a boat coming from Calcutta, laden with Spanish Dollars; if you do not wish to go yourself and take it, pray lend us your swords, and we will go ourselves, and try what we can do, rather than let your brave followers starve.' Maherban was, says Ghureeba, deeply stung by these reproaches, and waxed very warm, but was too angry to make any reply to his

“wives. He got his followers together, and leaving his principal wife, Mooneea, behind him, he set out in the character of a chief of high rank, going on a pilgrimage, with Soojanee, carried in a splendid litter as a princess; and in four months they returned with some forty thousand Spanish Dollars.”

His spies during the season of the rains, visited all great commercial towns, and reported from time to time all despatches of money, bullion, and other valuables, that were to take place; their destination, and strength of escort, and all such particulars as it was necessary that their leader should be acquainted with, so that he might make his arrangements as soon as the season for active operations commenced. On the present occasion, they reported the intended despatch of a boat laden with Spanish Dollars from Calcutta to Benares, and he left his bivouac in the Oude Turæ in October 1819, at the head of a gang of about two hundred Budhuks, men and women, he in the character of a Hindoo prince, and the rest in that of his followers, of all grades and professions. Moving through Benares, Saseram, Hazareebagh, and Bankora, he halted at Bodeeputty, near the town of Serampoor; and sent on his Hirrowas (spies) Kalee, Thoree and others, to Calcutta, to get the latest intelligence regarding the expected despatch of treasure, from their friends the Brijbashies, a class of people from the Muthra district, who are most commonly employed by merchants to carry and escort treasure, and who were very often in league with the chief leaders of these gangs, who always shared their booty liberally, and honestly, with those who assisted them in taking it.

The Hirrowas soon returned, and reported, that the boat with the treasure had already gone up the Hoogly river beyond Serampoor; and Maherban slowly followed it through Kulna and Moorsheadabad to Monghyr on the Ganges, whence they shortened their distance from the boat, till it put to at Mukrae, on the 26th February 1820. Maherban with his party, encamped in a grove of mango trees in the neighbourhood, and at night proceeded to the attack, leaving the women and baggage in the grove. They killed one of the Sipahs guarding the treasure, and wounded ten more, and took off twenty-five thousand Spanish Dollars, and two thousand six hundred Rupees of the Hon'ble Company's coinage. Those who carried the treasure, proceeded by the direct road to Dureeabad, the place of rendezvous, while Maherban and the rest went back to the grove to take the women, and rejoin them at that place on the night of the 27th. On the 28th, they proceeded to Deepnagur in the same district, where they rested two days, to celebrate the festival of the Hooly; retaining all the time the character (with which they had commenced the expedition) of a native prince and his suite. From

Deepnugur, they went to Rampoor near Gya, where they rested two or three days more ; and here Maherban discharged his old bearers and hired others to carry the princess and her female attendants, in covered litters, to Saseram. Here he discharged the Rampoor bearers and hired others to carry them to Azimghur ; and with a singular mixture of effrontery and piety, he gave a large sum of money to a gardener at Seosagur, about three miles from Saseram, to plant a grove of mango trees, near a tank, for the benefit of travellers, in the name of Rajah Maherban Sing, of Gour in Oude, and promised him further aid on future occasions of pilgrimage if he found the work progressing well, saying "that it was a great shame that travellers should be left as he had been, without shade for themselves and their families to rest under, during the heat of the day." At Azimghur he discharged the Saseram bearers and hired others to carry the females to their bivouac in the Oude forest, where the booty was divided, and the gang remained during the hot season and rains. The female procession, usual on great occasions, in their best attire, received Maherban and his party, as they approached, with dancing and music, and conducted him in triumph, like a victorious Roman Pro-consul, to his quarters.

Determined to travel in a still more princely style the next season, Maherban entertained Soorut Sing, a discharged Sepahee of the Company's service, to instruct his followers in the European system of drill, that they might move with him, in the disguise of regular Sepahees, well armed and accoutred. Soorut Sing found them very apt recruits, and being himself a good drill, he declared them fit to join any Regiment in the service by the end of the rains. As usual, after the festival of the Duserah, Maherban took the auspices, and set out on his pilgrimage, as a prince of the first order, with his escort of a strong party, to all appearance regular Sepahees. It so happened, that Heera Sing, one of the most attentive men at Soorut Sing's drill, had a very pretty wife, who, during the hours that her husband spent at the goose step, used to enjoy the conversation of one of the gay Lotharios of the colony, and when at last Heera ventured to remonstrate with her on the danger and impropriety of such conduct, she eloped with him. Heera went off and fell at Maherban's feet, and implored him to get him back his lost wife. Maherban had too many wives of his own to look after, and Heera could get no redress. He tried all the other leaders of the colony, but they were so much occupied with the drill, and the parts they were to take in the next expedition, that they either could not, or would not, attend to him ; and the gay Lothario managed to keep Heera's pretty wife to himself. Heera swore by the spirits of his illustrious ancestors that he would have vengeance upon them all, and as he was too poor and friendless to take it openly, he prepared to do so secretly. He said nothing more,

but took his post among the regular Sepahees in the procession, with which Maherban Sing, again at its head, proceeded through Benares to Shereghatee, where Heera found the opportunity of revenge, which he had so long sighed for.

Soon after the former decoitee had taken place, Government directed Mr. Macfarlan, the Joint Magistrate of Monghyr, to go to Mukrae, and do his utmost to trace the perpetrators. On reaching that place, he learnt from the people of the neighbourhood, that a Rajah from the Oude territory, on his way home from a pilgrimage, had encamped with a retinue of about two hundred persons, under some mango trees near the village, the day before the decoitee took place, and left the place before daybreak in the morning; that some boys going out early with the cattle to graze, had found, about a cose south of Mukrae, one of the bags which had contained the dollars, with the seal upon it of the house of Byjonath, by whom the treasure had been despatched from Calcutta. One of the Spanish dollars and a spear-head had also been found by the Thanadar of Bar, who sent it to Mr. Macfarlan, who ascertained that the Rajah and his suite had left the high road, and gone by that on which these two articles were found. He concluded that they must be the robbers, and followed up the trace to Dureepoor Bund, where he found that they had encamped the night after the decoitee. Thence he traced them on to Rampoor, where he found that they had hired fresh bearers to carry the females to Saseram; but at Daood Nugur, half way between Rampoor and Saseram, he was obliged to give up the pursuit, and return to his station at Monghyr.

He, however, sent on Shamlol Bose, the Thanadar of Monghyr, an active and sagacious Police Officer, who traced the party on through Saseram, and became acquainted with the negotiations between Maherban and the gardener for the planting of the grove in his name. On following up the trace to Azimghur, he came upon the bearers who had conveyed the females to their homes in the Oude Turae forest. He communicated all the information he had collected to Mr. Cracroft, the Magistrate of the Jounpoor district, who sent for and examined these bearers; among the rest came one Soudanee, a bearer who had been long in Maherban's service, and acknowledged that he was with him when he attacked and robbed the boat at Mukrae. Mr. Cracroft reported the information he had collected to Government, and obtained permission to call upon the Officer commanding the troops at Secrora, to aid him in the apprehension of the gang.

A detachment of four Companies was sent under the command of Captain Anquetil, accompanied by Shamlol Bose, the Thanadar, Mr. Cracroft's Moonshee, and Soudanee, the bearer. They proceeded to

Gonda, on the borders of the forest, where they left their camp standing and on the 10th of October 1820, moved on to the attack of Maherban's colony. Apprehending some opposition in crossing the Biswey river at the duntolee ferry, the left company had been sent on under a Captain to take possession. The object was to surprise the Banditti ; but unfortunately a small party of Sepahees, while the detachment was crossing the river, pushed on in advance with Shamlol Bose and the Moonshee, and came suddenly upon the position of Cheyda, the brother of Maherban,* and opened a fire upon it, to get out by a bold face, from the scrape into which they had got by their haste. The Banditti had received intimation of the approach of the detachment, and were prepared to receive it. They returned the fire of the small advanced party, while others concealed from view by a dense jungle, opened another from both sides, upon the main body coming up behind. Captain Anquetil found it necessary to push on, and secure his men from this fire, and under cover of the Light Company, he passed Cheyda's post, and advanced towards Maherban's small fort. This fort consisted of a ditch round an area of about sixty yards long by forty wide, with a wall made from the mud of the ditch. This quadrangle was filled with men, armed with matchlocks, who gave the Sepahees a volley as they came on, and then made off over the wall and ditch on the other side.

The bivouacs of Maherban's colony were all round this small fort ; and the huts were all ordered to be burnt down as soon as Captain Anquetil took possession of the fort. While this work was going on, the two parties of Maherban and his brother Cheyda united, came down upon the detachment, and opened a fire upon it from a thick jungle on every side which concealed them from view. It was now about midday, and Captain Anquetil, seeing no advantage likely to arise from the pursuit of such formidable Banditti through a thick jungle with which they were so very familiar, by heavily armed Sepahees, and thinking it unprofitable to retain any longer the possession of such a fort in such a position, retired across the Biswey, with the loss of only one trooper belonging to Mr. Macfarlan, and encamping seven miles from that river, gave his men a rest. The Banditti were collecting around him very fast, from the numerous colonies which inhabited the forest on all sides ; and had he remained all night, he would have lost a great many men from the fire of the enemy, and probably as many more, from the malaria of so deadly a jungle at the very worst season of the year, without the smallest chance of deriving any advantage whatever from staying. The Budhuks had watched the movements of his detachment, from the moment it left

* Cheyda commanded or governed a colony of about five hundred persons independent of his brother Maherban.

the cantonments of Secrora, and removed their women and children, and every article of value, from their fort and bivouacs before it reached them.

Captain Anquetil ascertained that Maherban had set out with his party of above one hundred men on the 12th of October, and was understood to have gone East, with the view of attacking a boat laden with treasure on its way up from Calcutta. He also ascertained, as he himself reports, "that these robbers seldom retain any considerable part of their plunder in or near the places of their residence, but distribute it about, for security, among the landholders, who return it when required ; that if Maherban happened to be at any time in want, he was sure of a supply from the landholders, who got from him on his return double what they had lent to him when he set out, and felt therefore a deep interest in his success ; that he had a well organised system of intelligence, having his emissaries in Calcutta, Benares, Poona, Agra, Delhie and Lahore ; that he generally moved in the direction of one or other of these large cities, and returned with immense booty ; that he moved with all the state and etiquette of an Indian Prince, and was attended by men dressed, armed and accoutred, as British Sepahees." This information Captain Anquetil communicated to Mr. Cracroft, who sent it to the Magistrates of Benares and Behar, and it was made good use of, as will be seen. He adds, "that the forest in which the Budhuks reside, is extremely dense, consisting of large saul trees, with thick underwood, in which a small body of resolute men would be able effectually to resist a very large detachment of regular troops ; that assisted as these Banditti always are by the landholders around them, no detachment of troops can ever hope to surprise them ; and that the only feasible plan would be for the Court of Oude to call upon the landholders in the neighbourhood, to assist in the arrest." But the king of Oude might, at that time, just as well, like Owen Glendower, have called "spirits from the vasty deep ;" for the landholders had much to hope and much to fear from the Banditti, and little or nothing from the king. The Decoit leaders shared their booty liberally with them in the shape of presents and interest upon occasional loans ; and, having no local ties, might quit their lands and locate themselves upon those of another in the same forest whenever it might be convenient for them to do so, and rob and murder their families, and set fire to their villages out of revenge, if they had any cause of resentment, since they had always the means at hand, and might choose their own time and opportunities. The landholders were all, both high and low, anxious to conciliate and aid them against their enemies.

Mr. C. W. Smith, the Magistrate of Behar, soon after he got from Mr. Cracroft the information collected by Captain Anquetil, heard from some Barbareeas, who are always on the look out for pilgrims about the holy city of Guya, that a Hindoo prince, attended by a party of Sepahees of the Hon'ble Company's service, had been heard of at Mahoneea, a place opposite Ghazeepoor, on the Ganges, and was reported to be on his way through Shereghatee. Mr. Smith concluded that this must be the leader he wanted. Fearing to assemble a force sufficient for his apprehension, lest he might hear of it, and move in some other direction, he sent out men in disguise to join the party, and persuade them, if possible, to leave the high road through Shereghatee to the right, and proceed to Guya, to bathe and propitiate the Deity. In the mean time he wrote to the Magistrate of Shereghatee to request that he would cause the whole to be arrested, should they not turn off towards Guya, but attempt to pass on the direct road through his town. Maherban got intimation that he was suspected by the local authorities, and leaving the main body of his gang under Munsa, about seven cose from Shereghatee, to act as circumstances might require, he went on upon the direct road, with the party in the disguise of Sepahees, and a few other followers. On reaching the town of Shereghatee, he was persuaded to strike off towards Guya, on the pretence that he was suspected by the local authorities of a wish to evade the payment of the usual custom house duties, and two peons were sent by the Magistrate to attend him on the journey. Intimation of this change of movement was sent back to Munsa, who, apprehending no danger, since the Magistrate had sent only two belted men to attend Maherban to the holy place of pilgrimage, and as he was suspected only of a wish to evade the payment of customs, set out with the main body, and leaving Shereghatee to the right, proceeded to join his chief at Guya. On reaching that place, the whole party encamped in a mango grove, and were there secured by Mr. Smith's Police, and taken before him ; still apprehending nothing more than the temporary restraint and custom house searches, to which they were accustomed.

Fortunately, however, Heera had not forgotten his pretty little wife and unredressed grievances, and he told the Magistrate the whole story of this expedition and that of the preceding year ; and that they had heard from their friends the Brijbashees, of the despatch of another boat with treasure from Calcutta, and had sent off their Hirrowas to collect information of its movements. Upon the direct evidence of Heera, who was actually present in the attack upon the boat at Mukrae, that of Sou-danee bearer, who remained during the attack in the grove with the princess, and that of Soorut Sing, Maherban's drill serjeant, and the testimony of the people who recognised the prisoners upon the road, and the

property found, the whole of this gang of professional robbers were convicted. Maherban was hung, and the rest, one hundred and sixty in number, were sentenced to imprisonment, some for life, and others for limited periods. Had a less able officer than Mr. Macfarlan been sent to Mukrae to discover traces of the robbers, or had the arrest and preliminary investigation been entrusted to a less able officer than Mr. C. W. Smith, or had the final trial fallen into the hands of a less able Judge than Mr. Fleming, Maherban would, in all probability, have escaped, to take a prominent part in many a similar expedition, and to disburthen the wealthy merchants of Calcutta and Benares, of many another boat load of Spanish dollars. It was for the public, a lucky accident, that the pursuit of the offenders, and the investigation of the case throughout, fell into the hands of the very best men in India at the time for such duties. I much regret, however, that I do not find in the Nizamut Adawlut's Report of the case, A. D. 1821, any mention made of the services of the humble Thanadar of Monghyr, while those of all others are so liberally acknowledged. The saying "to those who have much shall be given," while the poor and humble, whose intellect and energies we use for our purposes, get nothing, because they happen to have nothing, is here strikingly exemplified.*

* Those who were not transported, were distributed among the different Jails in Bengal, from which I collected many of them when the duties of the decoitee office devolved upon me in 1839, as will be seen hereafter. Some were sent to the Jails of the N. W. Provinces, and six were released from the Shahjehanpoor Jail, on the security of Rajah Khoshal Sing, of Kottar, from whose estate they had gone to join Maherban Sing on this expedition. They were made over to him on the 12th October 1838.

CHAPTER III.

It was supposed that the Budhuk Banditti of the Oude Turæ, would give up their trade as too perilous, after the conviction and punishment of so large a gang ; but decoitee had been the trade of their families for twenty generations, and they could think of no other ; “ *pigrum, quin immo etiners videtur, sudore adquirere, quod posses sanguine parare ;*” and neither after this, nor after any other disaster, did they ever dream of relinquishing the “imperial trade of their ancestors,” or seeking food, drink, and raiment by the sweat of their brow. The widows of Maherban returned to the Oude Turæ, and Moneea became one of the principal leaders of his colony. Numerous decoitees were perpetrated every season, and wealth continued to flow in among them from all quarters of India.

In October 1823, Moneea joined in fitting out an expedition against Junnukpoor, in the Nypaul territory, several hundred miles to the East of their bivouac, to intercept the treasure on its way to the capital of Katmandoo, from the fine slip of territory, which our Government had restored to Nypaul, after the war in 1816. This expedition was commanded by Puhlwan, one of the sons of the great Kulundur, who had been killed in a decoitee at Hydurgur in Oude ; the widow Moneea, Johuree, Latee and Ghureeba. It consisted of eighty chosen men and seven women. After taking the auspices, they moved on as usual, in small parties, towards Junnukpoor, the appointed place of rendezvous. About four cose from Jungpoor, a village in the above mentioned slip of country, Johuree's party fell in with fifteen bullocks laden with treasure, under the charge of eighty Gorkha soldiers. He and his party were in disguise ; and mixing with the escort, they ascertained they had on the bullocks a remittance of sixty-four thousand rupees, on its way from the Collector's treasury in the plains, to the capital. Johuree ordered two of his party to continue with the escort, and went on with the rest to Jungpoor, where he had a consultation with Ghureeba and the other leaders who had come up. Johuree proposed an immediate attack with as many of the gang as could be collected for the occasion ; but others urged the propriety of waiting till all should come up, for “ *ff,*” said they, “ we succeed in taking the treasure, many of our friends must be seized

“on suspicion, and beaten into confessions that may lead to the ruin of all ;
 “whereas if we forbear this time, we shall be all collected before the next
 “monthly remittance goes up, and may secure it with little hazard to our
 “friends, or to ourselves.”

One bird in the hand was, Johuree urged, worth two in the bush, and his counsel at last prevailed. He mustered thirty men, and Ghureeba and the rest twenty, and all got ready to follow the treasure. The two scouts continued with the treasure escort in the disguise of pilgrims ; and when they had seen it safely lodged at a place under the first range of hills, about twelve miles from Jungpoor, and carefully reconnoitered the position, one of them hastened to Johuree with his report. All now set out and reached the village of Bughalee in the evening. From this place, Johuree went on with four men to take a look at the position, which had been described as formidable. He found the treasure lodged in a fortified place, with a wall and ditch all round. A party of four or five hundred tradesmen, who carried goods from the hills to the plains, and from the plains to the hills, were encamped all round the ditch. After a careful look at the place, Johuree came back to his friends, and got a couple of stout ladders, each twenty feet long, made out of wood cut in the forest around them. Advancing in silence they placed their ladders, and got over the ditch and wall close to where the treasure lay inside. It was about midnight, with a good moon and clear sky, but still they thought it necessary to light their torches, and under their blaze they commenced the attack. The escort was taken by surprise, and made but a feeble resistance. The gang took off the whole sixty-four thousand rupees, and effected their retreat without losing a man. On reaching a retired spot, two or three miles from the scene of action, the covering parties took their share of the burthen, but still every man had too much to admit of the rapid movement they required. Seventeen thousand rupees were, in consequence, buried at this place ; and with the remaining forty-seven thousand, the party moved on through the forest towards home.

As soon as news of the loss of the treasure reached the Nypaul Cantonments, at Jalesur, whence it had been dispatched, every suspicious person that could be found was seized, and among the rest, several members of Moneea's and Puhlwan's parties were taken up. On being questioned, and severely handled under the lash, they let out who they were, and stated that the treasure must have been taken by the parties of Johuree and Ghureeba, who had gone on before. The two Regiments then stationed at Jalesur, were sent off through the forest to the Westward, to intercept the robbers, who would, they were told, take that road. They fell in with and killed two, and seized twenty-nine, who had lost

the road among the high grass and thick underwood of a part of the forest to which they were strangers, and recovered from them thirty-five thousand rupees. Questioning these prisoners in the same manner, under a sharp application of the lash, they discovered where the seventeen thousand rupees had been buried in the jungle, and took back to Cantonments fifty-two out of the sixty-four thousand rupees. Johuree and Ghureeba, with the rest of their party, got safely home with twelve thousand.

The prisoners were taken up to the Court at Katmandoo, where most of them made full disclosures, made light of the untoward accident, and boasted of the noble trade of their ancestors. Among the rest was Puhlwan, who descanted on the glorious death his father had met on the field of battle. Two of these men were sent by the Court of Nypaul to Mr. Hodgson, the Officiating Resident, who took up the matter "con amore," and elicited from the prisoners a great fund of useful information, which he communicated to the Resident at the Court of Oude, and to the Magistrate of the district of Goruckpoor. After much difficulty, Mr. Hodgson succeeded in prevailing upon the Resident to interest himself in the work, and to urge it upon the consideration of the Court at Lucknow, whose banditti were so clearly shown to be infesting all the countries around ; and he was afterwards led to believe, that by the information he had so happily obtained and furnished, the Oude and Goruckpoor authorities had crushed the gangs, and put a stop to their depredations for ever.

After taking down Ghureeba's own account of this affair in January 1840, I sent it to Mr. Hodgson, then the British Resident at the Court of Nypaul, to ascertain whether such an attack upon its treasure had really taken place as described. These are his words in reply—"The attack upon the Nypaul treasure is a true bill, just as your rogue describes it. Gardener was absent at the time, and I took up the matter con amore. I made the Durbar send me two of the shrewdest of the gang ; took their depositions ; got permission to send copies of them and of their statements before the Nypaul authorities, to Goruckpoor and Oude ; urged both Magistrate and Resident to be doing ; and, as a consequence of all this, a most formidable body of these knaves, who called themselves "Shighal Khores," and amounted to thousands, were tracked, hunted and *rooted out utterly*, I believe, though the Lucknow Resident could only be got to help us by representations to Government of his remissness." Mr. Hodgson's zealous efforts were useful, but like many other able men engaged in undertakings of similar magnitude, he over-rated their results, as he himself found, when called upon to co-operate with me sixteen years later in pursuit of the same gangs.

The united efforts of the Residents of Katmandoo and Lucknow, and the Magistrate of Goruckpoor, had secured the arrest of a good many members of the Oude Turae gangs, some of whom were retained for many years in the Lucknow jail, with those arrested by Mahudee Ali Khan, but a great part were soon released to return to their old trade, on occasions of rejoicings, when the king or any dear to him, recovered from sickness, or got additions to their families. On such occasions prisoners are released, without regard to the number or character of their crimes, as "Khyrat," or thanksgiving to God. Not a sword or spear-head of theirs had been converted into a ploughshare; nor had their distaste for earning by the sweat of their brows, what they could acquire by the use of their swords and spears, at all diminished. To illustrate the state of the Budhuk gangs of the Oude forest, at that time, it will be worth while here to give the depositions then taken, at Katmandoo, before Mr. Hodgson.

Confession of two Decoits sent by the Court to the Residency, taken before the Assistant Resident, on the 16th of February 1824, Katmandoo.

Confession of Madaree.

Question. What is your name?

Reply. Madaree, son of Nathoo, caste of Seear Marwars, inhabitant of village Kerare, near Atwah, Zeemindaree of Anoop Sing, age 40.

Q. What are the haunts of the tribe of Seear Marwars?

R. In Kerare, Anoop Sing's Zeemindaree, they have twenty houses. In elaka of Kurumdad Khan of Lutf Alee Khan, thirty houses. In Jumureah village, Pergunna Gonda, ten houses. In Atwah, near Anoop Sing's house, thirty houses.

Q. What is your opinion of the total number of Seear Marwars?

R. Four thousand men.

Q. In what Pergunna of Oude have all these 4,000 men their abodes?

R. In Pergunnas Utroula and Gonda.

Q. How long have you herded with these people?

R. Six months.

Q. Before then what was your occupation?

R. I was attached to the gang, but not as a member.

Q. In the last Decoitee how many men were concerned?

R. Eighty men.

Q. Whence came you to commit the Decoitee?

R. From village Kerare to Utroula, there having rendezvoused, we set out this way.

Q. Where did you propose to go?

R. To Junukpoor, whence we heard some treasure was soon to be sent.

- Q. Under what Sirdars?
 R. Jowahur and Luttee, and Mooneea, wife of Maherban, Sirdars.
 Q. Where live these Sirdars?
 R. In Kerare and Utroula.
 Q. Of these Sirdars were any taken?
 R. All escaped. Reedoo, (son-in-law of a Sirdar) was taken.
 Q. Who is Zeemindar of Pergunna Utroula?
 R. Kurmdad Khan.

Confession of Ramkishun.

- Q. Where live you?
 R. In Mohadena, 12 coss from Kerare, Pergunna Gonda.
 Q. Who is Zeemindar and who Amil?
 R. My village and Kerare are both in Pergunna Gonda, of which Meer Hadi is Chukladar, and Anoop Sing Zeemindar.
 Q. Whose Zeemindaree is Utroula and who is Amil?
 R. In the Chukladarship of Meer Hadi, and Kurmdad Khan is its Zeemindar.
 Q. How do you divide your spoil?
 R. One-fifth goes to Kurmdad Khan, and the residue we divide among ourselves.
 Q. What is the amount of the Seear Marwars?
 R. About six thousand people.
 Q. How was the late Decoitee managed?
 R. There were eighty men concerned, and I was one of them.
 Q. Where are at the present time all the 6,000 Seear Marwars?
 R. In their usual residences.
 Q. Who is Meer Hadi?
 R. Meer Hadi is one of the king of Oude's Chukladars, (governors) for Utroula and Gonda.
 Q. Does he ever share in your plunder?
 R. No, never.
 Q. Since when have the Seear Marwars followed the trade of Decoitee?
 R. From the time of Nowab Shoojah-ood-Dowlah; previously they had been husbandmen.
 Q. How long have you been connected with the tribe?
 R. For the last three years; I was formerly a Musalchee, and by caste a Baré.
 Q. What is your share of the plunder?
 R. What the Sirdar pleases.
 Q. During the two past years in what Decoitees have you been concerned?

R. In three places : at Hydergurh, on the Nowab's treasure ; in Tytalya on English treasure ; in Bhoware in the Turae, on the present occasion.

Q. Where are the Tytalya treasures disposed of ?

R. Each man at the time carried off what he could. The whole was collected afterwards at Junukpoor, and there buried for three days. Thence we carried it to our homes, and spent it in debauchery.

Q. You have a chuprass, were did you get it ?

R. My brother was a servant to Gopal Doss, merchant, and I took his chuprass when he died. This is it.

Q. Do you know Maherban Sing, Sirdar ?

R. Very well. He was a notorious Sirdar, inhabitant of Kerare. Being taken in the Gaya Decoitee, he was hanged. His wife Moonea was present at the late Decoitee in the Turae.

Q. Is Atwah in the Zeemindaree of Anoop Sing or Kurmdad Khan ?

R. Of Anoop Sing, who regularly gave shelter to Maherban Sing in his elaka. When the Decoits had nothing to live on, Anoop Sing supplied them, and was paid back by part of the spoil they made.

Q. How many notorious Sirdars now live in Utroula and its neighbourhood ?

R. Jowahur lives in Utroula itself ; Luttee in Atwah, elaka of Anoop Sing ; Juan in Utroula ; Lode and Naik in Sheepoor-puttee ; Umur Sing and Dhunwar Sing in Nugwah, in elaka of Meer Hadi ; Dhoontal Sing in ditto ; Cheedee, brother of Maherban, lives near Anoop Sing's own house ; Debpaal and Rugbeer are owners of 10 houses, situated behind Anoop Sing's house.

Q. Are there any other Sirdars ?

R. I do not remember more.

Q. Are there really between four and six thousand persons ?

R. Yes.

Q. Was Luttee Sirdar concerned in the last Decoitee ?

R. He came this way with intent to be present, but changed his mind and went back. He is the friend and confidant of the late Maherban Sing.

Q. Have you, Seear Marwars, other haunts in Oude besides Utroula ?

R. Not that I know of ; we are all Oude people ; but I don't think any of our tribe are to be found elsewhere than in Utroula and its neighbourhood.

Q. Had you any concern in the Goruckpoor Decoitee ?

R. No.

Q. Do you know who was concerned in it ?

R. No.

Q. How do the Seear Marwars dispose of the plunder they get?

R. They give a tenth to the Zeemindar under whom they live, and the rest they divide among themselves.

Q. Who are the other Decoits who stand by you now?

R. One is Puhlwan, son of Kulunder Sirdar; the other, Reedoo. Kulunder Sirdar, the famous Decoit, was killed in the Hydergurh Decoitee.

Q. How long since was he killed?

R. About four years.

Q. Where is Hydergurh?

R. Near Gosoen Gunge, about twelve coss from Lucknow.

Q. Besides Anoop Sing and Kurmdad Khan, are there other Zeemindars of Oude who protect the Decoits?

R. No.

Q. Know you where, or with whom, what remains of the treasure lately plundered, is to be found?

A. No, but I guess that it is in the hands of Luttee Sirdar, and of Moonea, the wife of Maherban, and of Guan Sirdar.

Q. By what ghât did you pass the Gunduk?

R. By that of Kurowlee.

Q. Did you all pass at once, or separately?

R. Separately, by two or three and four.

Q. Where did you sojourn in Beteeah?

R. We never came near Beteeah, but kept along the Nypaul Turæ.

Q. How many are taken on the present occasion, and how many escaped?

R. Fifty escaped and thirty taken.

Q. This list which I have here, and read to you, is it right or not?

R. It is correct, and was written from my dictation.

(A true translation,)

(Signed) B. H. HODGSON,
Assistant.

N. B. Madun and Ramkishun were afterwards sent to Goruckpoor and Lucknow, and helped to discover the whole band by their statements before the Magistrate and Resident.

(Signed) B. H. HODGSON.

Confession of Puhlwan, son of Kulunder Sirdar, before the Nypaul Authorities.

1st Decoitee. In Oude, in company with Lodee Sirdar, I helped to plunder treasure going to Ramnugur ; spoil 32,000 rupees. Restored all to Oude Authorities.

2nd. In Mutteabad, I helped to plunder a merchant's house ; spoil 3,000 rupees.

3rd. In Biswah, in Oude, I helped to plunder a merchant's house ; spoil none. Fled after two companions were killed.

4th. In Jaroul, in Oude, under Sirdar Naik, I helped to plunder a merchant's house.

5th. In Baraech, I helped to plunder a Khutree's house, under Sirdar Naik ; spoil rupees none ; 10 bundles of cloth.

6th. In Hydergurh, in Oude, I went and plundered a merchant's house. My father was killed, and I fled.

Confession of Madaree.

1st Decoitee. In Cawnpore, I helped to plunder a merchant's house under Sirdar Naik ; spoil 24,000 rupees.

2nd. In Muhoo Zillah, I helped to plunder Gholam Hosain merchant's house, under Naik Sirdar ; spoil 1,00,000. Five Decoits, of whom I was one, were taken. Escaped myself after a few days' confinement.

3rd. In Gwalior City, under Kulunder Sirdar, I helped to plunder English treasure on its way to some place ; spoil two lacs of gold mohurs.

4th. In Hansee Shuhur of the Mahrattas, under Kulunder Sirdar, I plundered a merchant's house ; spoil 5,000 rupees.

5th. In Tamachabad Shuhur, under Naik Sirdar, I plundered a Talee's house ; spoil 6,000 rupees.

6th. In Atrowlee Shuhur, under Naik, I plundered Bhooland Sing's house ; spoil 10,000 rupees.

7th. In village of Bungawah, under Naik, I plundered Dhunneah Sing Rajpoot's house ; spoil 24,000 rupees.

Confession of Junglee.

1st Decoitee. In Futtehpoor, in Goangurh, under Munsur Sirdar, I helped to plunder a Bhat's house ; spoil two bundles of cloth and three hundred rupees.

2nd. In Tamachabad Shuhur, under Chadee Sirdar, I plundered English treasure ; spoil 10,000 rupees.

3rd. In Zillah Tirhoot, under Chadee Sirdar, I plundered a house ; spoil 10,000 pice, and 200 chouannees.

4th. In Doomureeahgunge, under Naik Sirdar, I plundered a merchant's house ; spoil four bundles of cloth.

5th. In Oude, under Naik, I plundered Patun, a merchant's house ; spoil two heavy dishes.

6th. In Lungrah village, under Naik, I plundered a cotton merchant's house ; spoil 6,000 rupees.

7th. In Nibooah, under Naik, I plundered a merchant's house ; spoil three bundles of cloth.

Confession of Bhodoah.

1st Decoitee. In Buddlepoor, under Munsa Sirdar, I plundered a merchant ; spoil 32,000 rupees.

2nd. In Tausah, under Sabit Sirdar, I plundered a merchant's house ; spoil none ; fled in haste.

3rd. In Goromah, under Lodee Sirdar, attacked treasure ; failed ; Lodee taken ; others fled.

4th. In Gorouree, under Naik Sirdar, I plundered treasure ; spoil 1,000 rupees.

5th. In Ghatumpore, under Lodee Sirdar, attempted a Decoitee ; failed.

6th. In Betoar, under Baneilly Sirdar, I plundered a merchant ; spoil five pieces of cloth.

7th. In Pindarin, under Israel Sirdar, committed a Decoitee ; spoil 800 rupees, jewels 600 rupees.

Confession of Toollah.

1st Decoitee. In Rusoulee, under Chadee Sirdar, as one of a gang of forty, I plundered a merchant; six of my comrades killed; spoil 500 rupees.

2nd. In Bunkah Shuhur, under Seewah Sirdar's son, I plundered a merchant; spoil 400 rupees.

3rd. In Lalgunge, under Luttee Sirdar, I plundered a merchant; four of merchant's men and one of ours killed; spoil 800 rupees and jewels.

4th. In Jhansi Shuhur, under Maherban Sirdar, plundered a merchant; spoil 2,000 rupees.

5th. In Bojpoor, under Luttee Sirdar, plundered a merchant; two men of merchant's killed; spoil 100 rupees and some cloth.

Confession of Ram Sing.

1st Decoitee. In Jyepoor, under Newagee Sirdar, plundered a merchant; three of merchant's men killed; spoil 1,000 rupees.

2nd. In Hatrous Shuhur, under Nuwajee, plundered a merchant; three of merchant's men killed and two of ours; spoil 500 rupees.

3rd. In Lahour, under Nuwajee, helped to plunder a merchant; spoil none.

4th. In Cawnpoor, under Luchmun Sirdar, plundered a merchant; spoil 200 rupees.

Confession of Sirwah.

1st Decoitee. In Atwah, Honorable Company's Territories, under Maherban Sirdar, plundered a merchant; spoil 5,000 rupees.

2nd. In Lalgunge Singheah, under Rundun Sirdar, plundered a merchant; spoil 500 rupees.

3rd. The present Decoitee on Gurcha treasure, under Jowahur Sirdar, in which I was made prisoner.

Confession of Bhowaneedeen.

1st Decoitee. In Lalgunge Singheah, under Luttee Sirdar, plundered a Brahmin, killed four men ; spoil 400 rupees.

2nd. In Oude, a Brahmin's house, under Luttee, three Brahmins killed ; spoil 200 rupees.

3rd. In Goruckpoor, under Luttee Sirdar, on English treasure, killed two Sepahees ; spoil 12,000 rupees.

Confession of Tharon.

1st Decoitee. In Phulpoor, West of Benares, on a merchant's house, under Luttee Sirdar, four of merchant's men killed ; spoil 6,000 rupees.

2nd. In Oude, under Luttee, a Hulwae's house ; five of our men killed ; got nothing.

Confession of Nundram.

1st Decoitee. In Maharajgunge, under Luttee, a merchant's house ; spoil 200 rupees of jewels.

Confession of Dougah.

1st Decoitee. In Titalcah, under Sirdars Luttee and Jowahur, on English treasure, five Sepahees killed ; spoil 12,000 rupees.

Confession of Balgovind.

1st Decoitee. In Azimghur, under Chadee Sirdar, a merchant's house, killed three of merchant's men ; spoil 700 rupees.

Confession of Jug Dewan.

1st Decoitee. In Goulgur, under Chundah Sirdar, a merchant's house ; spoil 300 rupees.

Confession of Sabit.

1st Decoitee. In Alum Chaund, under Maherban Sirdar, a merchant's house ; spoil 5,000 rupees.

Confession of Bholah.

1st Decoitee. In Nuwabgunge, under Kulunder Sirdar, on a merchant's house ; spoil 1,000 rupees.

2nd. In Aleegunge, under Jowahur Sirdar, on a merchant's house ; failed.

After this onset made upon the colonies in the Oude forest, on the information collected by Mr. Hodgson, a good many of their leaders and members took refuge with the Rajah of Kottar, who has been already mentioned, in the Hon'ble Company's district of Shahjehanpoor, on the Eastern border of Oude, and others went to the district of Budaon, adjoining Shahjehanpoor to the South-west, and bordering upon the Ganges. The Rajah of Kottar considered the portion which he got as a valuable acquisition ; presented a dress of honor suitable to his rank to each of the leaders, and condoled with the others on the loss they had sustained in friends and property, in the late conflict. Some of Maherbhan's gang from Guya, who had been sentenced to limited imprisonment on a requisition of security, were afterwards sent to the Magistrate of Shahjehanpoor, who released them on the security of the Rajah, and they were added to his profitable little colony.

They kept up a constant communication with their friends who remained in the forest, and joined them occasionally in distant and important enterprises ; but generally confined themselves to small affairs in the bordering districts of the Honorable Company in Rohilcund and the Dooab, and those of the king of Oude. In the Western part of Oude, however, the only people who have wealth are the bold and turbulent landholders, who secure it in their small castles or mud forts, in which they set the authority of their sovereign at defiance, and maintain bands of followers, as prejudicial to the peace and security of the country as the Budhuk Decoits themselves. The Kottar and Budaon gangs depended, therefore, chiefly upon what they could get from the Hon'ble Company's districts, in which merchants and capitalists were more numerous, and wealth was more carelessly displayed and guarded. Numerous attacks were successfully made upon wealthy individuals in these districts, on both sides of the Ganges ; and several of the treasuries of Native Collectors of Government Revenue, were attacked and plundered. Government was, in consequence, obliged to order that all such treasuries should be fortified, and provided for defence against such formidable attacks, which were almost always attended with great loss of life.

In 1824, a Government treasury was attacked by the Oude gangs of Budhuks at Budlapoor, in the district of Jounpore, and thirty-two thousand rupees were taken off.

On the 4th December 1825, a Government treasury was attacked at Bhurdik in Goruckpoor, and one man was killed and ten were wounded ; the amount of money taken not ascertained.

In the same year, 1825, the Government treasure was attacked at Badshahpoor, in Jounpoor ; five persons killed, and twenty-two thousand rupees taken off.

In the same year, 1825, a Government treasury was attacked, and ten thousand rupees taken off ; the killed and wounded not ascertained.

In 1826, a Government treasury at Muchlee Shahur, in Jounpoor, attacked, and five thousand rupees taken off.

In the same year, 1826, the Native Collector's Government treasury attacked at Naggur, in Goruckpoor ; five persons killed, and thirteen thousand rupees taken off.

On the 12th January 1828, the Government treasury at Futtehpoor, attacked ; three thousand two hundred and thirty-one rupees carried off, and one person killed, and eight wounded.

In April 1829, the Sub-Collector's Government treasury at Patealee, in Furruckabad, attacked ; eleven thousand rupees carried off, and one person killed, and seven wounded.

On the 7th July 1829, a Government treasury at Phulpoor, in Allahabad, attacked ; two persons killed, and fifteen wounded, but property to the value of only fourteen rupees was lost.

The attacks upon the convoys, houses and store rooms, of private persons, during this time, by the same gangs, were of course twenty times more numerous, and all attended with similar loss of life and property.

CHAPTER IV.

In 1826 and 1827, Mr. Frederick Currie, then Magistrate of the Goruckpoor district, and one of the best in India, carried on a systematic attack on the Budhuk, or Seear Marwar colonies of the Eastern part of the Oude forest, whose depredations had become intolerable. This attack was carried on in co-operation with the Resident at Lucknow, and with the great advantage of the services of a Corps of Irregular Cavalry, under the command of Major Hawkes, and those of his own District Police, increased for the purpose, as Government had become fully impressed with the magnitude of the evil, and the necessity for strong measures to put it down.

In his letter to the Lucknow Resident, dated 15th of September 1827, copy of which was submitted to Government on the 25th of that month, Mr. Currie requested permission to enter the Oude territory, and proceed with the Cavalry and Police force at his disposal, to the border of the forest, to superintend the measures proposed to be put in force during the ensuing cold season, against the gangs located within it. In this letter he states, that the Budhuks were scattered in bands of from fifteen to twenty-five under a leader, over nearly the whole forest of Bharaech, whence they proceeded in united or separate bodies, as occasion seemed to require, through Oude, to our districts, West and South, and through the Nepalese forest, to those lying Eastward ; that they return with their booty, in small parties, before the rains set in, and during the rains reside with their families bivouacked, in the vicinity of villages bordering on the forest, and commit depredations in the neighbouring districts, which they render almost desolate. "In case of alarm, they retreat for protection to the depths of the forest, which are all perfectly well known to them, but almost impervious to aught else save the beasts of prey which they so much resemble." That they are spread also all over Tolseepoor, Atroula, and Bulrampoor, and extend their depredations into very remote parts ; that there are other gangs in Gonda and Atroula, who subsist by plundering villages in the adjoining Pergunnas (parishes) of Oude, and those of the Hon'ble Company which border upon it ; that hardly a night passes in which many Decoities,

attended with loss of lives and property, are not perpetrated by them ; and in consequence, the Pergunnas of Gonda, Atroula, and Bulrampoor, have been reduced to such a state of lawless confusion and insecurity as beggars description ; that these small gangs are often employed by landholders in their contests with each other, and with the authorities of the Oude government ; that such landholders protect them and their families, and get a share of their booty, as well as their services on emergency ; that the accurate information which these gangs get of the movements of the Police is such, that he found it on repeated trials to be impossible to surprise them ; that there were at that time between three and four hundred Budhuks located near the village of Gentwa in Atroula, on the bank of the Khowana river, held by Esuree Buksh Sing and Dureean Sing, who have a small fort there, on the Goruckpoor side of the river ; that on the other bank of this river, on the lands of a co-sharer of the same village, there were two hundred more Budhuks, all under noted leaders, and in league with the governor of the district of Gonda, Hadee Ali Khan, who happened to be at enmity with Mandhata, a large landholder, and unable to compass his destruction openly, he, through Esuree Buksh of Gentwa, prevailed upon two of the Budhuk Decoit leaders, Jowahur and Alma, to enter his service in the defence of his little fort, and put him and his deputy to death ; that they cut off their two heads, and took them to the governor, Hadee Ali Khan, who rewarded them handsomely, and gave them in rent-free tenure the small village of Kurounaha ; but Duljeet, the brother of the murdered Mandhata, soon after found means to put Alma to death ; and his children and Jowahur, unable to retain their village, were subsidized by the governor.

Besides these gangs of Budhuk Decoits there were, he states, others located along the border of the forest, who, though less numerous, were still more mischievous to the districts in the vicinity. Each of the many leaders of this class keeps five or six robbers, as a permanent establishment, at small villages, and increases the number as occasion requires. When a village has been fixed upon for attack, they collect the herdsmen from the surrounding grazing grounds, and a few of the lower caste laborers from the villages, who are induced to join in the enterprise by a promise of a liberal share of the booty. The most formidable leader of this class was Buseeah, a Bheer by caste, who was for several years under the protection of Dawul Sing, the landholder of Mudunpoor, who accommodated him and his party in his fort. For five years at least, one-third of all the Decoities, which had taken place in the Goruckpoor district, had been perpetrated by him. About two years ago, Buseeah left Mudunpoor, and built a small fort for himself in the village of Asnara in the forest, about eight miles from the border. The Budhuk

Decoits thinking he must have collected much wealth in this fort, attacked him one night, killed two of his relations, and took off all he had. He had prepared himself only for defence against the Oude authorities and the Goruckpoor Police, of whose movements he could always get timely notice ; but having now to protect himself against these skilful banditti, he increased and improved his fortification ; but Mr. Currie managed to get four of his own men into his service in the Asnara fort. Through them three attempts were made upon it by the Police. He evaded two of them by getting timely notice, but in the third, several of his best men were killed ; and a month after he was himself killed by some landholders of Oude, whom the Goruckpoor Police had induced to join in the pursuit, and his gang was broken up.

Mr. Currie concluded that a large force of Infantry moving from different distant points, with Artillery, across the frontier, could have no possible chance of success against such Decoit gangs, though this was the plan which had been recommended by Mr. Elliott, the Judge on Circuit from the Benares Court in 1817. As the king of Oude concurred with the views of our Government as to the necessity of destroying these gangs of robbers, and had consented to the employment of our troops for the purpose, he thought that the object would be better attained, by occasional attacks on our part at such times and places, and with such force, as circumstances might point out, and the nature of the service require ; and for this service, the Irregular Cavalry, placed at his disposal, appeared to Mr. Currie to be well adapted. Major Hawkes was stationed at Goruckpoor, with a chain of outposts all along the whole of the Bharaech frontier in Oude, which he could increase as required, without exciting suspicion. With these outposts concentrated as occasion required, Mr. Currie proposed to make sudden raids across the border, upon such of the gangs of banditti as might appear to be within reach ; and of the captures he might make, to commit for trial at Goruckpoor such as could be convicted of specific offences within our own territories, and to leave the rest at the disposal of the Oude authorities.

The following letters were written by Mr. Currie, during the months of April, May and December, 1828.

To W. EWER, ESQUIRE,

Supt. of Police, N. W. Provinces.

Para. 10th. "I was encamped upon the frontier from the middle of December till the beginning of March, during which time I visited the whole line of our boundary, and the various places in the neighbouring Pergunahs of Oude, which had been the haunts of the Sear Murwas.

I found, as I expected, that the banditti had deserted their old haunts ere my arrival, and had gone some to the jungles under the hills, and others to quarters further removed from our territories. Just at this time Meer Hadee Ali had been removed from his appointment of Chukladar of Gonda, and Willyut Ali Khan, Amil of Fyzabad, was appointed in his stead, with strict orders from Lucknow, to destroy the Seear Murwas, confiscate the estates of their protectors, and establish Thanahs, and a system of Police, very much resembling our own, throughout that part of the province of Oude. Willyut Ali appeared zealous to perform the duties entrusted to him ; he instantly attacked Srenuggur in Gonda and Entwa, where the Seear Murwas had been protected by the Zemindars for years close under Hadee Ali Khan's eye ; seized several ; cut up others of the banditti, and took up the Zemindars. He also evinced, by his letters and communication with myself, every disposition to co-operate with me ; appeared anxious and willing to act upon my information, and to follow my suggestions for the effectual putting down of the gang. He established Thanahs at Atroula and other places. The Zemindars who had hitherto been concerned with the Decoits, were frightened, to the last degree, for their persons and property ; and the Seear Murwas themselves appeared convinced, that the hour of retribution was come. Thus a prospect of better times opened upon us, when 'the third day comes a post;' and the orders from Lucknow had scarcely arrived and the person who was to execute them, when the minister was dismissed at Lucknow. The Police appointed by Willyut Ali ran away to a man ; and my messenger, who went to Gonda with a letter and statement of the different gangs, (copy of which I have annexed) returned with information, that Willyut Ali had been seized and taken off prisoner to Lucknow, and that Meer Hadee Ali Khan was expected back to his appointment immediately ! The night of the day on which the Atroula Police decamped, a party of Seear Murwas committed a serious Decoity on some merchant's house at Atroula itself, and a few came over the border, and attacked a village in the Bhanpoor Pergunah of this district.

11th. "Much had however been effected; the Zemindars had generally taken the alarm ; no successor was appointed for some time to Willyut Ali, and there was even a report of his being about himself to return. I was in the neighbourhood with a force of Irregular Horse, and acquainted, as they well knew, with the Rajah's and Talookdars' movements, and the orders from Lucknow about the estates of delinquents were still in force, though there was no officer of the king's on the spot to execute them. Many of the Talookdars and Zemindars, particularly of Atroula, finding their connection with the Decoits likely to get them into serious difficulties, turned at once against them. Their object of course being that they should not fall into my hands, to tell the stories

of their former protectors. Numbers were killed, and numbers were taken up by the combined attacks of the Zemindars, and the remainder of the gangs dispersed and were driven to other places. Upon Hadee Ali Khan's return many were made over to him, and he strictly enjoined all the Zemindars to take up all they could, but to be particularly cautious that none should fall into my hands. To this and to the circumstances of such numbers of the Seear Murwas having gone to Toolseepoor and Rujehut and the hills in that neighbourhood, and to Gonda, is to be attributed the Sowars on the frontier not having hitherto been more successful in the offensive measures which have been taken against the banditti; but I have no doubt that as the season advances, I shall be able to report the satisfactory result of plans which are now in progress, for seizing those who have found shelter with the Rajahs of Toolseepoor, Gonda and Ekana, as well as with some other Zemindars to the Northward of their former haunts.

12th. "It was most satisfactory to me to find, by the experience of my late trip into the Seear Murwah country, that I was entirely right in the information conveyed through the Resident of Lucknow to government, relative to the habits, haunts, strength, &c., of the banditti in September last.

13th. "For three months nearly I have been in their immediate neighbourhood, and often for days together in their very haunts and hiding places, in the depth of the forests of Oude. I had in my employ several individuals who had been connected with the principal gangs, and heard details in corroboration of all I had recorded from some who were taken up. I repeat with the utmost confidence, that the Seear Murwas have no forts or strongholds; that they are scattered in small bands, unless some particular occasion induces them to unite over extensive and almost impenetrable forests; that they in themselves are a despicable race, formidable only from the protection they receive from the Oude Zemindars, and by the time and manner of their depredations, and the defenceless state of their prey. I hesitate not a moment to repeat my firm conviction, that, had the contemplated expedition been sent last autumn, it would have entirely failed, and it could not but yield me satisfaction to find, upon the fullest investigation upon the spot, that my single opinion, then recorded in opposition to that of others, and which I am led by the letter of the Political Secretary to the Resident of Lucknow, dated 7th December 1827, to fear was not acceptable to Government, was correct. I was in great hopes that you would have been able to put your intention of visiting the district during the late cold season in effect, when, from the information I should have laid before you, and the

individuals I should have produced to give evidence before you, I feel convinced that I should have the benefit of your testimony to the correctness of what I had stated and proposed.

14th. Much has been done towards the ultimate suppression of these gangs; a re-action has been brought about; their former protectors have, in most places, turned against them; numbers have been cut up and taken, and others have separated and left this part of the country, and Decoities have ceased in the district. But in my letter to Mr. Ricketts, of the 15th September last, I laid great stress on the punishment of those who harboured the Decoits. Several of these Rajahs and others still remained with large gangs of Seear Murwas on their estates under their protection and in their power, and I am only waiting to complete such a chain of evidence of their individual delinquency as shall be satisfactory in the eyes of Government, ere I propose some specific measures against them, which, if agreed to, will, I have scarcely any doubt, completely rid this part of the country of Seear Murwas for ever.

(Signed)

F. CURRIE,

Magistrate.

ZILLAH GORUCKPOOR,

30th April, 1828.

To W. EWER, ESQUIRE,

Supt. of Police, W. P.

MEERUT.

Para. 14th. In conclusion I beg to state, that I consider it of the last importance to the maintaining the peace of our frontier and to effecting the object desired by Government, viz., the suppression of these gangs of atrocious robbers, that the other Rajahs and Talookdars of Oude shall be shown by the punishment of the Rajah of Toolseepoor, that they will no longer be allowed to harbour them and to share in their spoils. It has been proved that the Decoities which have taken place in this and other districts, to which the serious attention of Government has been directed, are perpetrated by gangs of robbers infesting the jungles of Buraitch; that these robbers could not exist except by the protection of the landholders on whose estates they live, and who are, by participating in their plunder, virtually the accomplices of their crimes. It has been shown that where the Zemindars have discontinued their protection of the banditti, and evinced a disposition to conform to the orders of their Government about them, the bands

have been either cut up or taken, or obliged to shift their quarters ; and I think I may venture to promise, that if the Rajah of Toolseepoor's forts shall be destroyed, as a punishment for what has been established against him, and the same measure be taken with any of the Zemindars or Rajahs against whom being accessory to the Decoities shall be satisfactorily proved, the effect produced upon the neighbouring Rajahs will be such as to lead to the complete destruction of the banditti on the frontier, and the entire cessation of the crime of Decoitee in this district.

(Signed)

F. CURRIE,
Magistrate.

ZILLAH GORUCKPOOR,
The 25th May, 1828.

TO THE HON'BLE E. GARDNER,
Resident at Nepaul.

SIR,

I have the honor to make for your information and communication to the Nepaul Government, the following Report relative to a gang of Seear Murwah Decoits, who were attacked by a party of our Police and a Detachment of Hawkes' Horse in the Nepaulese Turae, on the 23d instant, and to enclose the accompanying Persian documents.

2nd. Of the characters and habits of these atrocious marauders you are already well informed, especial measures for whose capture and suppression have been carrying on by our Government in communication and concert with that of His Majesty the king of Oude, during the last year and half. The gangs are now almost entirely put down. Lodhee, Munraj and Kureah, Jemadars, with those of their followers, who had not been seized or dispersed, finding their former haunts no longer tenable, crossed the Oude frontier a short time ago, and established themselves in the uninhabited parts of the Nepaul Turae, close to the confines of the Oude territory.

3rd. Having been frequently urged by the Governor of Palpa to send my own people after these marauders, whenever they might take refuge within the Nepaul Turae, a party of Police and Sowars were sent

to attack Lodhee, Munraj and Kureah, with their followers, on the 23d instant. The Decoits made such resistance as they might ; Lodhee and Munraj, with one Seear Murwah, lost their lives in the affray, and Kureah with six of the gang was taken. The rest escaped, owing to the extent and thickness of the jungle.

4th. Immediately notice of the affair was sent to Cajee Bukhtawur Sing Thappa, the Governor of Palpa, and a copy of my letter to that Officer is No. 1 of the enclosure.

5th. Beechuk, a Seear Murwah Jemadar, of small note, with a few followers, is still within the Nepaul boundary ; and the assistance of Cajee Bukhtawur Sing, which has been most readily afforded, has been requested by me for his capture. No. 2 is the copy of my communication.

6th. It will be a satisfaction to the Nepaul Government to learn, that within the last five months, nearly the whole of the survivors of the gangs who plundered the treasure of that Government in 1824, and who confess to the ravages committed in the villages within the Nepaulese territory, have fallen into my hands.

(Signed)

F. CURRIE,

Magistrate.

ZILLAH GORUCKPOOR,
CAMP LUCKREEGUNGE,
The 31st December, 1828.

The Oude and Nepaul Governments had given their cordial support to these measures, and a good many Decoits were captured and convicted upon their own confessions and the testimony of their accomplices, and their notorious character as robbers by profession ; and like Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Currie was led to believe, that he had finally crushed the gangs over the Eastern border of the Oude forest to which his operations were confined. These are his words in 1839—"I was for a few years employed in the eradication and destruction of as well organized and disciplined and as formidable a gang of Decoits as exist in India, the Seear Murwas, whom Major Sleeman describes as ramifications of the Budhuk tribe, or indeed as Budhuks under a local denomination. A full history of these Decoits, their haunts, their habits, mode of life, system of operations, and the measures pursued by me for their

"destruction, which were entirely successful, is on the records of "Government." They had not, however, been destroyed or crushed ; they had merely been a little *compressed* under the pressure of his means and energies, like the Genii in the fable. His *seal* was soon removed ; and they again burst forth, and covered the whole face of the country with their depredations.

The gangs had been obliged to change their positions along the border of the great forest, and double up, or go off for a time to join their friends in Rohilcund, the Dooab, Rajpootana and Gwalior. These colonies always calculated upon such occasional pressure upon particular points, and it was an essential part of their system to provide for it. The colonies, however distant from each other, intermarry and keep up a constant intercourse of visits and civilities. As among other Hindoo tribes so among Budhuks, one gote or family is prevented from giving a daughter in marriage to a son of the same gote or family, in the same or any other colony ; but every colony has many gotes, so that they can accommodate each other. The Solunkee of one colony unites his daughter to the Powar or Dhundele of another colony, and "vice versa." When one colony is hard pressed or disturbed, and loses too many members to be able to act any longer independently, it goes off and unites itself for a season or two to some other distant colony, with which they have intermarried, and kept up an interchange of civilities, till the pressure ceases, and their numbers are sufficiently increased by the return of the old members, or the acquisition of new ; or it retires and hides itself for a time ; abstains from all distant and hazardous enterprises, and contents itself with small affairs in the neighbourhood, so that the boldest and most able men may remain at home, and defend the colony from attack.

The following list of Decoities, ascertained to have been committed by the Budhuk Decoits of the Oude forests, from the beginning of 1819 to the end of 1833, will show how small was the impression made upon the colonies which furnished these gangs, by the four formidable attacks made upon them (as already described) by some of the most able public officers in India, and with the most cordial and liberal support of the Supreme Government and the Sovereign of Oude. This list contains only such of the affairs, described by the Decoits themselves, as have been ascertained to have been committed as described, on a reference to Magistrates of districts and other local authorities. They form only a part of the Decoities described by the Decoits themselves in the narratives of their lives ; and all that they describe forms but a part of what have been perpetrated by them.

List of Decoities ascertained to have been committed by the Oude Turae Budhuks every year, from 1819 to 1833.

Years.	Number of Decoities.	Killed.	Wounded.	Property taken.	Arrested.	Convicted.
1819,	5	14	81	60,070 0 0	1	1
1820,	9	10	43	1,64,062 0 0	197	134
1821,	6	4	8	16,660 0 0	3	3
1822,	13	13	47	60,336 0 0	3	3
1823,	12	11	48	1,11,867 8 0	1	1
1824,	6	3	38	26,854 0 0	0	0
1825,	11	13	21	72,404 0 0	6	6
1826,	13	20	77	91,782 0 0	46	20
1827,	11	16	55	23,642 0 0	15	0
1828,	6	7	50	7,872 0 0	25	5
1829,	7	35	47	38,851 0 0	43	8
1830,	5	5	45	56,054 0 0	19	0
1831,	3	5	28	12,912 0 0	14	0
1832,	5	11	26	1,19,744 0 0	16	2
1833,	6	5	68	2,79,781 0 0	68	3
	118	172	682	11,42,891 8 0	457	186

I may here mention a few of the enterprises undertaken and executed by some of the principal leaders of these gangs, after the last formidable onslaught upon them by the Goruckpoor and Lucknow authorities. In November 1830, a gang under Bukshee passed down from the forest through Oude, in small parties, and in the disguise of Ganges water-carriers. They moved slowly, and lodged at night in the groves of different villages along their lines of road, so as to be able to concentrate at any point at a short notice. Three of their Hirrowas had been sent on across the Ganges in search of prey, and a fourth to purchase a good boat at a small village on the left bank of the river, opposite to the Police Station of Sursole, in the district of Cawnpoor, on the right bank. When near this small village, they were met by one of the Hirrowas, who reported that a cart laden with treasure, belonging to Someterae, a merchant, and on its way from Mirzapoor to Furruckabad, had that day reached Sursole, and put up near to the Police Station. It

was resolved to attack it that night; and after fixing on the spear-heads and axes, the gang, which had rendezvoused at this place, pushed on and crossed the Ganges in the boat which had been purchased for the purpose, and was managed by two of Bukshee's staunch friends among the ferry-men of the neighbourhood. They reached the spot, which was some ten or twelve miles from the river, about midnight, attacked the treasure party, wounded seven men, broke open the boxes, and took off twenty-five bags containing each one thousand rupees. But by the time they got back to the river, day had begun to appear, and the ferry-men had concealed the boat under a high bank, and had fallen asleep. The Decoits were afraid to halloo lest the pursuers should hear them; and determined to wait till evening, they buried the treasure in the sand, and dispersed to refresh themselves in the neighbouring villages. Soon after sunrise, the Police came up, and found the boat, but the ferry-men pretended that they had come over with fodder, and were released with their boat. At night the gang returned, took up their treasure, recrossed the river in the boat, and giving fifty rupees each to the ferry-men, got safely back to the forest in time, and with abundant means, to celebrate the festival of the Hooley.

In the month of November following, Bukshee set out again with his friend Budun Sing, whom he had invited to join him with his small party from the Moozuffernugger district. They mustered a party of forty men, and were joined by another of thirty-two under Chunda, who had resigned his confidential appointment under the Magistrate of Bareilly, and re-assumed the command of his gang in the Oude forest. They moved down slowly in small parties, through Oude, in the disguise of Ganges water-carriers, and sent on as usual their Hirrowas to look out for something worth taking. Bukshee had ordered his Sursole boat to move down the river to Allahabad. Here, at the junction of the rivers Ganges and Jumna, the parties all rendezvoused, made their offerings, and received in return the blessings and prayers of the priests for the success of their undertaking, whatever it might be. It was not deemed advisable to attempt any enterprise at Allahabad, and the Hirrowas were sent on to the commercial town of Mirzapoor, where many wealthy merchants were known to reside. In the mean time the gang crossed over to the left bank of the Ganges, and passed down in the same disguise and small parties, to a place opposite to Bindachul, where they were met by one of their Hirrowas, who told them that one of the merchant's houses at which they had taken a good look, promised a good booty.

Bukshee's boat was ready at hand, having been brought on by the ferry-men, and all crossed over and made their offerings to Davey at the temple of Bindachul. This place, which is four miles above Mirza-

poor, on the same or right bank of the Ganges, they left a little after sunset, and going on two miles, threw off their disguise and prepared for action; but another of their scouts here met them, and reported that the streets of this populous town would be too much crowded till nine o'clock at night. They sat down and rested till half-past eight, when they fixed on their spear-heads and axes, and moved on in a body. On reaching the place all the avenues leading to it were guarded as usual by parties which had been told off for the purpose, and appointed to their respective posts on the reports of the Hirrowas. The door of the merchant's house was still open, and the working and covering party entered, killed and wounded several persons, broke open all the recesses and boxes in which treasure was likely to be found, and retired with between forty and fifty thousand rupees. They resumed their disguise at the place where they had thrown it off, re-crossed the Ganges in their own boat, gave one hundred rupees to each of the ferry-men, and reached their homes in the Oude forest without losing a man, or having one wounded or taken.

But when it had been determined to attack the merchant's house, Bukshee insisted that he should have one-fifth of the booty whatever it might be, for the ransom of his father, Ruttee Ram, and his mother, who had been in the Lucknow Jail from the time that Mihudee Alee Khan made his attack upon the colony in 1819. His friends were a good deal staggered at this unusual demand; and would, as Bukshee well knew, have instantly rejected it with indignation had it been made at any earlier period of the expedition; but now that all preparations had been made, and so inviting a prey lay before them, while Bukshee seemed desperate, and resolved that they should either agree to his terms or not take it at all, they yielded to his demand. He had before talked over his own party, and Chunda, Baldeo, and the leaders of the other parties, were much in want of money, and obliged to give in. On the division Bukshee took eight thousand rupees for the ransom of his father and mother, one thousand as his own share, as commander-in-chief, besides the whole of his outlay in preparing the expedition, and subsisting and purifying the gang on the road, before the spoil was divided in due shares, according to custom among the parties engaged. But Bukshee had provided himself with so many wives, that his old father and mother remained inmates of the Lucknow Jail, and the money exacted for their ransom was squandered. He regretted it less, that Ruttee Ram was now too old to be of any use to the colony.

While Bukshee was engaged in this last affair, another gang from the same forest, of about forty stout men, under two brothers Hemraj and Mungul Sing, and their cousin Dhurmoo, was at Shereghatee, on the

Calcutta road, looking after a large despatch of treasure from Calcutta on its way to Benares. Unknown to them there was a third gang from the same forest, consisting of twenty-five men under Bureear, and fourteen under his cousin Ghureeba, whose father, Nuseeba, was a Police Officer under the Magistrate of Bareilly. On the road, the two last leaders separated from each other ; and Bureear went on through Guya, while Ghureeba kept upon the great trunk road through Shereghatee, where he fell in with Mungul Sing and his gang. Seeing no prospect of a speedy re-union with Bureear, Ghureeba proposed to join and act with them. They opposed this arrangement so earnestly that he concluded they must have something good in view ; and frankly told them, that unless they admitted him and his party to share in the enterprise, he would get them all arrested by the Magistrate of that place. Mungul Sing knew the reputation of his father, Nuseeba, in this line, and after a good deal of discussion, consented to unite with him, on condition that Bureear and his party should not be admitted to share in any booty they might take before he came up. Ghureeba resolutely insisted upon the whole of Bureear's party being admitted to share equally with the others, whether present or not, urging that his diverging towards Guya was merely a part of the combined movement towards the great source of the wealth they were in search of in Calcutta. While they were discussing this point with much warmth, one of Mungul Sing's Hirrowas came up and reported that the treasure was fast approaching, and that the escort consisted of at least one hundred armed men, though there were no British Sepahees among them. On this Mungul Sing and his party gave in ; and the usual oaths of fidelity in the division of the booty were taken in due form.

They went on from Shereghatee that day, and encamped in a jungle on the bank of a river ; and the next day another of the scouts came up and reported that the treasure carts would descend the hills the following day, and stop at the village of Dhungaen below. About noon Mungul Sing, Ghureeba, Bundooa, and six others, went on with about sixty spear-heads, four axes and three torches, which they buried in the sands of a rivulet, three miles from Dhungaen, where they rested that night. The next morning the six men were sent back to tell Hemraj and Dhurmoo to come up with the rest of the gang, and rest at that rivulet, while Mungul Sing, Ghureeba and Bundooa went on and ascended the hills to meet and reconnoitre the treasure party. As soon as they saw the party at a distance they sat down, and when they came up, they joined them, and pretended to have come from the same direction. There were eight carts said to be laden with treasure ; and when they had seen them all take up their positions for the night, and carefully examined the position, they rejoined their friends at the rivulet. But before they left

the treasure carts, a small party of a Corporal and four Sepahees of the Company's Service had come up in charge of one thousand rupees, on their way from Shereghatee to Huzaree Bagh, for the payment of some labourers who were employed in repairing the great road, and had taken up their quarters about twenty paces from the carts.

It was determined to attack the treasure escort that night about ten o'clock, and the duty of disposing of the little party of the Company's Sepahees was assigned to Ghureeba, and a select few of his gang. At the signal given they rushed in upon them, killed the Corporal and the Sentry, and possessed themselves of the arms, while the main body of the gang set their three torches in a blaze, and attacked the treasure escort. They killed one of the Sepahees and a shopkeeper, and wounded sixteen others ; and taking twenty-eight bags, each containing two thousand five hundred rupees from three of the carts, which was as much as they could carry with safety and convenience, they retreated to the rivulet, under the protection of the covering parties. Ghureeba got a slight wound from one of the spears of his own men, but no other person of the gang was hurt. This was on the night of the 4th of January 1832, and the treasure belonged to Ramchund and Gopaul Das, merchants of Benares.*

Returning to the rivulet they counted the rupees in one of the bags, and finding the booty to amount to seventy thousand rupees, Mungul Sing and Hemraj took their share, and threw aside the rest, telling Ghureeba to take charge of it, as it would, they said, " be too bad to be obliged to " give Bureear and his twenty-five followers a share, and carry it for them " all the way home besides." Ghureeba took two bags, and told them that he and his cousin would hold them all answerable for the rest of their share. Mungul Sing here interposed between Ghureeba and his brother Hemraj, and prevailed upon them to have the rest of Bureear's and Ghureeba's share, amounting to thirty thousand rupees, buried in the sand. Ghureeba then went off in search of his cousin and his party, whom he found at Teekaree, one stage South of Guya. The Rajah Khosheal Sing of Kottar, in the Shahjehanpoor district in Rohilcund, happened to be at this time at Guya on a pilgrimage, and suspecting him to be another Maherban Sing in disguise, the Magistrate had him and all his suite seized and confined for some days on suspicion. The Rajah had had no hand in this affair ; but he had been himself for some time too closely connected with a gang of atrocious marauders who infested the Oude territory, and our bordering districts under his cousin Bhujja Sing, who was on the 16th November 1827, killed in an attack made by British Troops upon him and

* Hemraj was soon after killed in a Decoitee to the Eastward, and Mungul Sing has lately been transported.

his gang.* The Rajah himself had given up the trade, but he continued to locate upon his estate of Kottar, in Shahjehanpoor, a few little colonies of Budhuk Decoits, as poachers keep their dogs, to supply his table with the best game that the season and the rich districts around could afford.

On returning home Bureear, who was a very violent man, demanded vehemently his share of the Dhungaen booty; and finding that he was not to be pacified by the plea that Ghureeba was alone responsible for what had been buried, they gave him two thousand rupees for immediate purposes, and promised to go and have the rest dug up for him within one month. At the end of the month, he set out with Mungul Sing and others, leaving Ghureeba ill at home, and took up the buried treasure, but found a deficiency of twelve thousand rupees, which Bureear at once taxed Mungul Sing with having purloined on the night that it was buried, for Ghureeba had refused to have any thing whatever to do with the burying process, lest it might fix upon him the responsibility. Mungul Sing pretended that he really knew nothing about the matter, and the party returned home with what they had found. After a good deal of discussion between the parties, from which Mungul Sing kept carefully aloof on pretence of indisposition, Bureear appealed to the Rajah Gunga Sing of Dhera Jugdispoor, on the border of the Oude forest, one of their patrons, and his minister Chundun Sing, and begged them to take up the affair. Bureear made over to them Dhurimoo and all of Mungul Sing's party whom they had been able to secure.

The Rajah and his minister took up the question "con amore;" and resolved, that the decision of so important a case ought to be left to the Deity himself, and that the trial by ordeal was the only safe one to rely upon. Seven members of Mungul Sing's gang, who had been employed with him in burying the rupees, consented to take up the red hot cannon ball and carry it the prescribed number of paces, under a pledge that if their hands were burned they should restore the lost money, and pay the Rajah a fine of five hundred rupees. "This," said the Rajah and his minister, "is the easiest and the surest way of getting at the truth in such important cases. God must know who is in the right and who in the wrong, better than we can, and if asked in due form, and a true spirit, he will no doubt declare." But as their five hundred rupees depended upon their burning the hands of one or other of the seven, they got an expert blacksmith who made the balls *white* hot, and put them with a pair of stout tongs, fizzing and crackling upon the palms of their hands, defended only by a single thin leaf of the Peepul tree. They had to

* Bhujja Sing was killed on the 16th November 1827, by a Detachment of the 34th Native Infantry, under the command of Captain Croft.

carry them a certain number of paces, and before they got over the distance, the hands of Boodhooa and Nundram, which had never been hardened by labour, were sadly burned. All were forthwith pronounced guilty in the name of God, and after exacting from them the fine of five hundred rupees, the Rajah and his minister made over Dhurmoo and all the other offenders, in irons, to Bureear, that he might get his twelve thousand rupees out of them as best he could. Bureear kept them confined for several months, and at last swore by the spirits of his ancestors who watched over the interests of the colony, that he would cut off an ear from ~~each~~ if the lost money were not forthcoming on a certain day. The feelings of the colony would go no further with the violence of Bureear, and he was obliged to connive at their escape one dark night soon after. The hands of Boodhooa, who afterwards rose to the distinction of a leader, still bear the marks of the burning he got; and in showing them to me one day eight years later, he confessed, that the *decision of the Deity* in that case was a just one; that he had really assisted Mungul Sing in robbing Ghureeba on that occasion of ten thousand rupees, by burying them in a pit at some distance from the rest; and that he, Nundram and another of the party, afterwards helped themselves to three out of the ten thousand, unknown to Mungul Sing. What became of two of the twelve thousand he knew not.

On the 18th December 1832, the Oude Turae gangs attacked a Government treasure at Amoda, in Goruckpoor, killed four and wounded nine persons. The amount of treasure taken has not been ascertained. On the 3d of February 1834, they attacked a Government treasury at Sakeet, in the Mynpooree district, killed two and wounded twelve persons, and carried off seventeen thousand four hundred and fourteen rupees. On the 25th of January 1835, they attacked a Government treasury at Modha, in the Humeerpoor district, killed one person and wounded five, and carried off three thousand two hundred and twenty-eight rupees.

In the same year 1835, they attacked a Government treasury at Peepareeah in Goruckpoor, and killed one person, but were beaten off.— See Mr. Currie's letter 27th September, 1838.

On the 4th of January 1836, they attacked a Government treasury at Gharoal, in the Mynpooree district, killed one person and wounded nineteen, and carried off fourteen thousand six hundred and eleven rupees.

In the same year 1836, they attacked the Government treasury of the Native Collector at Kuchwa, in the Mirzapoor district, killed two and wounded eight persons, and carried off nine hundred and ten rupees.

CHAPTER V.

Encouraged by past success and impunity, Bukshee and his party determined to relieve the Ex-Peshwa Bajee Row, of a portion of the gold which he was said to have accumulated in his Cantonments at Bithore, on the right bank of the Ganges, near the large Military Station of Cawnpoor. Having collected all the necessary information, and secured a promise of the assistance of some of the members of His Highness' establishments, he left the Oude forest in the latter end of December 1832, with a large gang, and proceeded to a grove called the Lal Bagh, a short distance from the village of Gogow. Bukshee had taken so unfair an advantage of his associates in the Mirzapoor Decoitee, that they now thought it expedient to bind him by more solemn pledges before he set out; and in this grove it was decided in presence of the whole, what share each leader and member should have of the spoil. This ceremony over, Mahajeet, the eldest son of Bukshee, Rambul and three or four others, were sent on to get information from their friends at Cawnpoor, and in the Bithore Cantonments. Newulgunge was appointed as their place of rendezvous; and about twenty days after his son had gone on, Bukshee set out with about eighty followers in the disguise of Ganges water-carriers. The interval had been spent in and about the village of Gogow. At Oltakwa, about thirty miles from Gogow, they spent two days with the Rajah, who was an old friend of Bukshee's; and then proceeded in small parties to Newulgunge, where they met Mahajeet and Rambul.

These reported that nothing could be safely attempted without a boat of their own, and some fire-arms with which to intimidate the guard; and Bukshee gave his son one hundred rupees, with orders to purchase the boat and arms required. The latter returned to Cawnpoor and purchased a small boat for fifty, and laid out the other fifty in six musquets, one pistol, and some bamboos for spear-heads. These things with the boat were made over to the charge of some ferrymen on the left or Oude bank of the Ganges. Bukshee's wife had accompanied him thus far, but as they were now about to prepare for action, she was sent back, escorted by three or four of the feeblest of the gang. The gang

had been moving about the country in small parties, waiting for the signal ; and when it was given, they concentrated at a place about six miles below Bithore, to which Mahajeet brought the boat with the newly purchased arms and expert ferrymen. Two or three men were left in charge of the superfluous clothes and Ganges water-baskets, and the rest all crossed the Ganges about an hour after dark. They reached the Ex-Peshwa's Palace about ten at night, on the 24th of January 1833 ; and after wounding eighteen persons who attempted resistance, they possessed themselves of property, chiefly in gold, to the value of two hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred and forty-six rupees, and retired without loss.

The boat had been left under the bank in charge of three or four of their stoutest men, and they re-crossed the river in her. On reaching the Oude side, they gave the ferrymen a present of one thousand rupees, and sunk the boat in the deepest part of the river. The booty was now distributed among all the members of the gang, that none might have more than he could move fast with. Chokula and Duna, two lads of about twenty years of age, were tired, and so unwell that they could walk no further ; and they were made over to the ferrymen, with orders to see them safe home when they got well enough to move. Resuming their disguise at the place where they had thrown it off, they went on to a grove about fourteen miles from the scene of action, where they examined the booty. They found it to consist of about fifty thousand rupees in silver, and about fifteen thousand gold mohurs, worth according to their estimate fifteen rupees each. They buried thirty thousand of the rupees in the ditch that surrounded the grove, and went on with all the rest of the booty in parties of from ten to twenty, each concentrating towards evening, that they might pass the night in a body. On the sixth day they reached the village of Bohta near Julalpoor in Mahomdee, on the estate of Rajah Mahommed Hoseyn, where they left their Ganges water-baskets with Lala Hollasee, a Koor-mee, who used to keep Bukshee's accounts for him : the day after at Cherartee, on the bank of a tank, six large and ten small gold coins were distributed to each of the members of the gang; and the rest kept together for future distribution. As they approached the forest the next day, they were met by a procession composed of all the women of the colony who came out with their usual songs of joy to meet "the conquering heroes." They received fifteen of the largest gold coins, and twenty rupees to purchase sweetmeats and trinkets for themselves and children. That day, the money was entrusted to the most respected members of the colony, who took it to their respective houses, and the next morning it was brought and put down before the several leaders, who gave to every man five gold mohurs, seven rupees, and two small

four anna pieces. Every man of the village, as well as every Budhuk of the colony, got this sum.

Chunda, who after Bukshee, was the principal leader in this enterprise, died six weeks after from the debauch which followed their almost unexampled success. A quarrel took place among them, and one man went off in his rage to Mr. Robert Orr, an active and able officer in the king of Oude's service, who was in charge of what was called the "Punj Krohee," or ten mile Police, extending along the left bank of the Ganges within the Oude territory, and offered to put him in the way of securing the whole gang with what remained of the booty, on condition of having a salvage upon all that should be recovered by his means. Mr. Orr saw that the man was really in earnest, and having before heard that the treasure had been taken to the forest which extended along the left bank of the Ganges through his Police division, and covered a space of ten miles wide, he spoke to the minister, Roshun Oddoula, a very stupid man who had succeeded a very able one, Hukeem Mehudee, under whose auspices his Police had grown up to a state of great efficiency.

The virtual minister at this time was Sobhan Alee Khan, who thought that a fortune might be made out of such an occasion for his brother. He had long envied Mr. Orr the powers which Hakeem Mehudee had put into his hands for good purposes, since in his own hands, or that of his relatives, they might be the source of immense profit. The minister who was entirely subservient to his views, received Mr. Orr and his proposal very coldly ; and in consequence he spoke to the Resident ; explained to him a well arranged plan that must have succeeded, and asked only for the aid of a small force out of the very large one then available for the duty, and specific orders from the Court, as the forest was some seventy or eighty miles from the scene of his ordinary jurisdiction. He was told that any attempt on the part of the Resident to promote his views in this undertaking would only tend to increase the jealousy felt by the ostensible and virtual minister towards Mr. Orr, as both were anxiously looking out for an occasion of bringing the brother of Sobhan Alee to the favorable notice of the king, and they would certainly seize with avidity the present, to send him out to seize this formidable gang and recover so large a booty. They had already proposed a code of regulations for a reformed Police over the whole kingdom, similar to that which had been found to work so well under Mr. Orr, with a view to placing the whole under the superintendence of Sobhan Alee's own brother, and getting rid of Mr. Orr and his establishments, as great impediments to the objects they had in view of profit and advancement for his, Sobhan Alee's, family.

The brother whom they wished to entrust with the duty, was sick, and his recovery was long waited for. He lingered for three months and then died. Mr. Orr still continued to press his plan of attack upon the notice of the Court and the Resident, but Sobhan Alee waited for the arrival of another relative, whose fortunes he wished to promote, and three months more passed without any attempt being made. In the mean time the colonies along this forest all visited Bukshee to take advantage of the occasion to celebrate the marriage of all their daughters, and there was nothing among them but feasting and debauchery. Sobhan Alee's other relative had also been taken ill, and in despair of being able to get one for the duty, he consented to its being confided to Muhudee Khan, an energetic officer, who united the Civil and Military authority, in an adjoining division of the country. He took with him a Regiment of Cavalry, two of Infantry, and a small park of Artillery, giving out that he was going to reinstate in the Government of that part of the kingdom, an old Princess who had been for some time confined in the jail at Lucknow. He came upon the colony by surprise, after they had withdrawn their outposts at daybreak, and with the loss of a good many of his own men, he cut up about one hundred of the Decoits, and among the rest Bukshee himself, with six other leaders of note, from the other colonies, who made a stout resistance. He got all that was left among them of the Ex-Peshwa's gold, and took it to Lucknow, with some two or three hundred prisoners. The property was divided among the most influential officers of the court, and the prisoners were put into jail, whence they were all soon after released, with the exception of a few individuals, who were too insignificant to purchase or otherwise obtain their liberty. The agents of the Ex-Peshwa attended to claim the recovered property, but never succeeded in getting one rupee. Some old females of the colony, who were then very busy at Lucknow in getting their sons and husbands out of the scrape, declare that when this recovered property was about to be made over by the court of Lucknow to the agents of the Peshwa, the queen told His Majesty "that if he suffered the Ex-Peshwa to recover his property in this way, " he would expose himself to a demand from the Hon'ble Company for " all that had been taken by gangs from the same colonies in their " attacks upon numerous public treasuries and private storehouses in " all parts of their dominions, and add to the grounds already urged, " for depriving him of his country ; but that if he allowed the property " to be quietly absorbed, the noise about it would soon cease, while he " would escape all further responsibility and odium." Whether Her Majesty the queen ever gave such counsel or not, is uncertain, but certain it is that he allowed all the recovered property to be quietly absorbed, and escaped for the rest of his life all further responsibility and odium on this account. The Ex-Peshwa made little noise about it, and

what he did make was little heeded ; some few of the gold mohurs were recovered through a Police Officer of one of our bordering districts, from some of those who escaped the onslaught of Mehudee Khan, and six of the gang were arrested and brought to Cawnpoor for trial. Four of the six confessed before the Magistrate that they had been engaged in this affair in the hope of being admitted as king's evidence ; but they recanted before the Judge when they found that they could be considered only as confessing prisoners, and would be liable to the same penalties as the rest ; and all six were, in consequence, acquitted. Only one of the four who confessed, had really been present at the robbery, though all had shared in the booty ; and only one of the two whom they accused, (Bureear) had been actually present, though he was a notorious leader. The other, Buldeo, was a leader no less notorious. The gold mohurs were sent into the Government treasury as not having been duly recognized, and not into that of the Peshwa from which they had been taken.

The plan for the reformed Police throughout Oude is said to have been submitted to, and highly approved by, the Supreme Government, as the dawn of a better system of administration. The duty of carrying it out was entrusted to the son-in-law of Sobhan Alee Khan. A great number of atrocious robbers and murderers, who had long infested the banks of the Ganges, and rendered life and property insecure on both sides, were then in confinement, under sentences of imprisonment for life or long periods, confirmed by the former able minister, Hukeem Mehudee. Mr. Orr was now removed to make room for a creature of Sobhan Alee Khan. The whole of the prisoners were released for such sums as they could pay, and a rich harvest was reaped from others arrested and sold in the same manner ; but a change took place in the administration. Sobhan Alee Khan was obliged to fly the country ; his son-in-law was thrown into jail, and made to disgorge all he had collected ; the reformed Police was broken up, and has never since been heard of, I believe. Sobhan Alee has been ever since living in retirement at Cawnpoor, to all appearance thinking of nothing but a future state ; but the hope that a change of men and measures may some day recall him to the helm of affairs in Oude, has never forsaken him, and never will while he has life.

It is worthy of remark, that the kingdom of Oude, while it furnishes us with the greater part of our brave soldiers, and our educated Native Officers in all branches of our Civil Establishments, is never able very efficiently to administer its own Government. Yet no other part of India of the same extent has so many advantages of soil, climate, rivers, brave peasantry and educated aristocracy. The principal causes are first—the insecurity in the tenure of office. The minister is never secure of

holding his office for a single day, and the removal of the minister involves the dismissal of every other officer of Government, civil or military. All, therefore, enter office with the determination of "making hay while the sun shines;" abuse their power, and neglect their duty, as their interest may require for the moment. No man can hope to improve his own prospects or those of his family, by an able and conscientious discharge of his duties in any branch of the public service. No service performed for the State; no reputation for honesty, industry, courage, fidelity, devotion to the Government, or benefits conferred upon the people placed under him, can enable any man to feel secure of holding the office he has, after his patron is removed; of having a provision from the State when no longer able to discharge its duties, or consideration or employment for his sons.

A change of sovereigns necessarily involves a change of ministers, for the minister of the sovereign of the day is almost of necessity considered as the enemy of the heir to the throne. It is his interest to preserve, as long as possible, the life and reign of his master; and his master, believing that these depend entirely upon the care and vigilance of his minister, (since it is the interest of the heir and his favorites to make that life and reign as short as possible) confides to him not only the whole powers of the Government, but the whole management of the household. But a minister can rarely hope long to retain the entire confidence of his master, where so many able and unscrupulous expectants are so deeply interested in depriving him of it, and who can, in the seraglio and other establishments, find so many instruments, ready for gold to serve them by insinuating doubts and suspicions to the royal ear. There are, therefore, commonly many changes of ministers during a reign, even where dangers are apprehended from the machinations of the heir apparent, and more, where there are none; and as every change involves the dismissal of all the old officers of Government, and the appointment of new, no security whatever can possibly be felt in the tenure of office in any branch of the public service. There can, consequently, be no conscientious discharge of public duty, though there is never any want of education, talent, or ability. As I have said, the greater part of the officers and soldiers of our Army, among whom we find so much of courage, fidelity, and devotion, are from Oude, and so are a great part of the very able and highly educated native functionaries, who serve in our civil, criminal, and revenue establishments, with so much credit to themselves, and benefit to the people and Government of India. These would all gladly serve in the same manner in Oude, if they had the same feeling of security in their tenure of office.*

The same feeling of insecurity is felt in the tenure by which men hold their land and every other kind of property in Oude. The land revenue is farmed out to contractors, whose contracts are for short periods, and whose interest in the districts over which they rule, terminates with their contracts. They have, while they last, the entire administration, fiscal and judicial, over the districts for whose revenues they contract. They exact all they can from the landholders, who in turn withhold from them all they can, and they regard each other as natural enemies and antagonists. The landholders defend themselves as best they can, by bands of armed followers and fortified places ; but while the crops are on the ground they are reduced to terms, or lose the produce of the season. If they are beaten, and have their fortified places destroyed by one contractor, they purchase the privilege of re-building them from his successor ; or reduce him to the necessity of conceding the privilege without purchase, by plundering all the country within his jurisdiction, and preventing any one from tilling the lands. During the contest, they collect around them all their tenants, and all the robbers by profession, and other loose characters they can find ; and any peasant who puts his hand to the plough, does so at the peril of his life and those of all the members of his family. The families of all who are killed or disabled on the part of the landholders in these contests between them and the officers of Government, are provided for by the survivors ; but the claims of all who are so killed or disabled on the part of the officers of Government, are entirely disregarded. It is also considered honorable to fight on the part of the landholders against the Government authorities ; but not so to fight on the part of Government against the landholders ; as it is taken for granted, that the one is fighting against, and the other for, the *oppressor* ; though it often happens in Oude, as it did in the middle ages in every country in Europe, that the landholder is in reality the greater oppressor of the two. The consequence is, however, that the Government officer is often obliged to give in, while he has ten times the numerical strength of the landholder.

In the mean time all the questions that arise between the landholders themselves, between them and their tenants, and between one tenant and another, about boundaries, contracts, inheritance, succession, and marriage, are settled among themselves without any reference whatever to the officers of Government or their Courts, as things with which the sovereign and his delegates have nothing whatever to do. The sovereign is considered to be only the "*Pysaka Malik*," the fiscal sovereign, who has a right to take, *when he has the power*, a certain or uncertain portion of the annual produce of the land, but none whatever to interfere in any question of civil or religious right. In all questions

of criminal jurisdiction, his right is considered to be no less limited, and every man is supposed to have the right to redress his own wrongs, and to be bound either to do so, or to get his patron to do so for him. In such a state of things, all that the sovereign can pretend or hope to do, is to secure his own rights to a portion of the annual produce of the land and labor of the community, and to enforce the performance of the duties which those employed in the collection of this portion owe to himself. He cannot pretend or hope to enforce the performance of those duties which they owe at the same time to the people, or to each other. He can never pretend or hope to be able to secure the rights of any one portion of his subjects against the trespass of another, or against that of his own officers, or to enforce the performance of the duties which any one portion of his subjects owes to another. The duties of securing the one and enforcing the other, are, therefore, left to themselves; and these duties are performed in a rude way, but to a degree that surprises those who are not accustomed to such a state of society.

The foreigner who landed in England under the impression that all must be discontent, insecurity, and disorder, from what he had read in the English party journals, could hardly be more surprised at the state of security, harmony, and repose prevailing around him, than is the Englishman who crosses into Oude from our bordering districts to the East, after reading the Indian newspaper. He expects to find nothing but anarchy, but sees before him a country much better cultivated and much more densely peopled than the one he has left within the Hon'ble Company's territory. He finds a peasantry more bold, but at the same time more courteous and polite, and more anxious to discharge the duties of hospitality to the stranger. They will tell him that they have had very hard-fights to secure the land and crops they have from the grasp of the reckless Government contractor, and to enforce a due respect for the rights of individuals and village communities among their neighbours; but they will, at the same time, if encouraged to speak freely, tell him, that they are not without their advantages over their neighbours in our own territories; that they have not the mortification of seeing the lands of their ancestors sold every day by public auction, or the greater part of the produce of their lands and labour swallowed up by the native officers and attorneys of our Civil and Revenue Courts, ever ready to set one member of a family against another, and to fatten themselves upon the ruin of both; that though they have sometimes to lament the loss of a relative or friend in an open "set to" in the field in defence of their rights, they seldom pine away in a prison for debt, or sink under the "law's delay," the iniquities committed under its forms, and the "proud man's contumely;" that though they are liable some seasons

to have more than the Government's just share taken from them by violence, they are able at others, by the same means, to oblige it to be content with less, and escape the mortification of seeing their female apartments violated by the officers of Civil Courts, and the clothes and ornaments of their wives and children, and the bullocks from their ploughs, their implements of husbandry, and seed grain, all carried off at one "fell swoop," in fulfilment of a decree of the Civil Court, when calamities of season have left them nothing else to pay it from, or the native officers have a spite to gratify, or other private objects to attain.

In the Western part of the Oude territory, the country is not either so well cultivated or peopled as in the Eastern, as the landholders are there more turbulent, and more often engaged in contests with each other to the ruin of their tenants. From these contests, and those of the Government contractors with the landholders, the harvests are hardly ever secure ; and though the soil is among the most fertile in India, and the facilities for irrigation are very great, from water being every where near the surface, much of the land lies waste, and the tillage is confined chiefly to the least costly crops.

The state of things here described, will tend to explain why the sovereign of Oude, with every disposition cordially to co-operate with the British Government in its efforts to put down these gangs of robbers by profession, was unable to make any permanent impression upon them. They were always sure of protection on the estates of landholders who required their aid, or the prestige of their name, in their contests with each other, or with the authorities of their sovereign ; and these authorities themselves were often obliged either to purchase their forbearance by conniving at their residence within their own jurisdiction, and their depredations within those of their neighbours, or to submit to be utterly ruined in circumstances and character, by their attacks. In many of our own districts, they had the same protection from landholders and Police officers, who screened them from the same motives, either to share in their booty, or to purchase their forbearance. The aid our Government had from the Oude sovereign, in rooting out the Thug gangs, which had covered the whole face of the country for ages, was not more cordial than that which was given in suppressing the Budhuk gangs of Decoits ; and the same success did not attend it, merely because the means were not so well organized, or their employment so long and systematically supervised and sustained, and because the Thugs had not the same common language as a bond of union, (though they had slang terms and phrases) or the same location in an immense and unhealthy

forest, which no other people thought it safe to enter during six months in the year, much less reside in.

The last time that I passed through the Western part of Oude, was in February 1842. I was marching from Lucknow to Shahjehanpoor in Rohilcund, when on the morning of the 24th of that month I overtook the largest brass gun I ever saw, save one, drawn by twenty-four pair of His Majesty's finest bullocks, on its way to the camp of the Amil Toorab Ally Khan, one of the finest old Mahomedan gentleman I have ever seen, and the nephew of Mehudee Ali Khan, the late minister. I asked the Artillerymen why the King's largest gun was going out, and was told "that they were going out to enforce the payment of a balance of revenue, which one of the Hindoo Barons had refused to pay, and shut himself up with his followers in the Fort ; that six inches of paper in the hand of a revenue peon did for such things in the Company's Territory, but money could not be collected so easily or cheaply in Oude." My camp was that day pitched within a few miles of that of the Amil, and in the midst of one of the richest sheets of cultivation I had ever seen. The wheat, which covered the country for many miles all round, was luxuriant and in ear, but the old men, women and children, who guarded it from the trespasses of animals, were silent and melancholy. I got into conversation with some of them, and they told me that they had laboured hard to raise those crops, and God had blessed them with plentiful showers in good season, but all must now be trodden under foot, since their chief had taken off all their able bodied men, and shut himself up in his Fort, and the great gun was on its way from Lucknow to batter it down ; that he and his followers would fight, and, if beaten out of the Fort, would take to the thickets, and lay waste the whole of the country to prevent the Amil from getting any revenue from it.

After breakfast the Amil paid me a visit and told me that if he did not use the large gun, the Baron would never pay any thing ; and if he used it effectually, he would desolate the country, and prevent his getting any thing from him or any of the other landholders in the neighbourhood, and begged me to become arbitrator. Soon after the Baron's head officer came with a complimentary message, complained of the exorbitant demands of the Amil, and begged me to caution him against the use of the celebrated great gun. I brought both parties together, and after talking over the matter that day and another, at the next encampment, both became fully impressed with the opinion that they should best consult their own interest and that of the people, by an amicable adjustment. The Amil came down a little in his demand, and the Baron admitted that Toorab Ally Khan was not an unreasonable old man. Merchant's secu-

urity for the payment of what was due, was tendered and accepted, and I left them with the satisfaction of believing that the crops had been saved for that season, and perhaps many a valuable life also, for both parties were very angry and much disposed to proceed to extremities when I interposed with my advice. The approach of the big brass gun had, no doubt, its salutary influence in the arrangement, for it was, I believe, only on rare and desperate occasions that its services were called for, or permitted by His Majesty of Oude.

CHAPTER VI.

After Mehudee Khan's attack upon the united colonies of the Oude forest in 1833, Mahajeet, the eldest son of Bukshee, succeeded to the command of his deceased father's gang ; and after committing a good many Decoities in and about Lucknow, to revenge himself for the death of his father, and so many gallant leaders and members of the tribe, and to make up, in some measure, for the loss they had sustained in property, he went off at the head of one hundred and fifty families, across the valley of the Ganges and Jumna, to try his fortune upon the banks of the Chumbul. On their way, they visited their friend Soojan on his estate of Manukpoor Gotra, in Alwar, and remained with him nearly a year. During this time, they all united in several daring Decoities upon merchants, and other wealthy persons in and about the city of Delhi.

To the Westward of the river Jumna, throughout Rajpootana, Gwalior, and Malwa, this tribe of Budhuk Decoits are called in some parts Bagries, and in others Bagorras, terms applied to them exclusively. They were justly considered to be the most numerous, daring, and skilful of the gang robbers by whom these parts of India were infested, and estimated to amount to about twelve hundred families. They were located chiefly in the Alwar, Jypoor, Karowlee and Gwalior Territories, but their most numerous and formidable bivouacs were along the banks of the Chumbul. Kishna, an old and noted leader of this tribe, with his four sons and numerous grandsons, assisted the Alwar Chief in throwing off his dependance upon the Jypoor State in A. D. 1783. Bijee Sing, one of the grandsons, undertook and executed the murder of the Commander in Chief of the troops which were sent by the Jypoor State to reduce the Alwar Chief to obedience, and the family received, as their reward, in the name of the old patriarch Kishna, the estate of Manukpoor Gotra, (worth then about four thousand rupees a year,) in hereditary rent-free tenure, on condition that they should themselves give up the trade of their forefathers, and defend Alwar from all other robbers. The climate was good, and as they were less exposed to the risk of being cut up, either at home or in desperate enterprises abroad, the family increased and multiplied rapidly, so that they began soon " to press against the

means of subsistence." As the only honorable means of making up the deficiency, all took to the trade of their ancestors, as they had always done, and always will do under similar circumstances, - in spite of the most solemn promises and pledges.

Ajeet Sing, a noted leader of the Bagree class of the Chumbul colonies, dwells in his narrative, upon the circumstance of this assassination of the Jypoor minister, as among the most cherished recollections of his family, because one of his uncles played a distinguished part in the scene, and suffered for his magnanimity. "My grandfather," says he, "with his eight sons, came to Paloda, in the Jypoor Territory, conciliated the landholders with a little money and promises of more, and got from them a lease of the estate, upon which they built a small fort for the security of their families and property. Here my grandfather died, and some time after the Nowab Ameer Khan came, took the Fort, and levelled it with the ground. Two of my uncles were killed in defending the breach with their swords and shields, and a third lost his life in attempting to escape upon an impetuous mare, which threw him and broke his neck. My father, with his four surviving brothers and their families, and those of the deceased, now left the Jypoor State in which they had become powerful, and acquired dominion in the way dominion is usually acquired, and offered their services to the Rajah of Karowlee on the Chumbul river. He entertained them all upon fixed salaries, on condition that they should prevent robbery within his Estate, and fight for him in its defence when threatened with invasion.

"Our numbers increased beyond our means of subsistence in the service of this Chief; and two of my uncles, Pertab and Chutter Sing, went off and entered the service of Kureem Khan, the Pindaree leader. Another uncle, Bhart Sing, entered the service of Row Pertab Sing, the Chief of Alwar, who employed him and Bijee Sing, another leader of our tribe, to assassinate Dewan Khoshalee Ram *alias* Hurdeo Sing, the minister of the Jypoor State. Pertab Sing had been a feudatory of the Jypoor State, but he now attempted to throw off the yoke and set up for himself. He set fire to villages and plundered the country in the usual way; and the Jypoor Chief sent off his minister with an Army of twenty thousand men, to seize or kill him, and resume his fief. He laid siege to the Fort and reduced it to great extremities; and Pertab Sing sent for my uncle Bhart Sing and Bijee Sing, who came with five hundred of their clansmen well armed. He promised them a high reward, and an estate in hereditary rent-free tenure, if they would go and kill the minister. They undertook to do so. Having made all the necessary arrangements, Bhart Sing approached the tent

“ at night with only four or five followers, whom he left outside. He
 “ entered the tent, and found the minister asleep, and entirely defence-
 “ less. He could not kill a man in that state, and taking up his sword,
 “ shield and turban, which lay by the bedside, he returned with them to
 “ Bijee Sing, saying that he could never stab a brave man in that
 “ defenceless state. Bijee Sing then went, entered the tent, which was
 “ still without a sentry, and stabbed the minister to the heart. Pertab
 “ Sing gave them ten thousand rupees in money for the service, and the
 “ villages of Manukpoor Gotree, which Bijee Sing soon after contrived to
 “ appropriate exclusively to himself, for he quarrelled with my uncle,
 “ Bhart Sing, who went back with all his family and friends to Karowlee.”

Captain Graham ascertained and reported in a letter dated the 26th May 1840, that the minister of the Jypoor State, Khooshalee Ram, who commanded the forces sent against Alwar, had been assassinated in his tent by Bijee Sing, the son of Zalim, and grandson of Kishna, assisted by a gang of Bagree Decoits, in the year A. D. 1783 ; and that they got a grant from the Alwar Chief, of the villages of Manukpoor Gotra and Gotree, then worth about three thousand rupees a year, as a reward for their services, and on condition that they were to abstain from robbery; to secure the Alwar State from other robbers, and be always ready to cut off his enemies in the same manner when called upon by him to do so. Kishna and his four sons had, Captain Graham found, during their lives, adhered to their promises, so far as not to be themselves present in any Decoitee, though they never ceased to share in the spoils acquired by their friends who needed their advice and assistance. On the death of Pertab Sing they were required by his successor to pay a small quit rent ; and from that time every member of the family, as he attained the age of manhood, took to Decoitee ; and they became among the most daring of this class of freebooters West of the Jumna. A genealogical table of this family is subjoined, in order to show the hazard of any attempt to put down their system of robbery, by locating them on lands held on any terms.

After enumerating the numerous gang robberies in which the members of this large family had already been proved to have been prominently engaged, Captain Graham adds—“ The above are not a tithe of the
 “ number in which we may reasonably expect to convict the members of
 “ this family ; but they serve aptly to illustrate the insufficiency of the
 “ plan proposed by some highly talented Officers, to establish the Budhuks
 “ in agricultural colonies, with lands to be assigned to them on rent-free
 “ tenure, or at a quit rent after a certain period. Had they had the
 “ same opportunities that I have now had of becoming acquainted with
 “ the confirmed predatory habits of this class of gang robbers, they could

“ never, I think, have entertained such opinions. Not only have these “ Jageerdars broken their engagements with the Alwar Chief, by supplying members to the gangs, but they have made their estate a place of “ rendezvous for other gangs ; and a few years ago, Mahajeet and Bhow- “ anee, two celebrated Chiefs, with their gangs, took up their abode with “ them for a whole year, and during that time committed the Decoities at “ Materpoor in Gwalior, and Balumgur in the Delhi Territory ; and a “ portion of the spoil was assigned to the Jageerdars, in return for the “ shelter and protection afforded.” The following are the depositions of Sookpaul, the brother of Bijee Sing, the assassin above named, and Sojan Sing, his son, the present head of the family, taken before Captain Graham, on the 24th September and 1st October, 1839. As to the demand for quit rent being the cause, the estate would have soon become insufficient to maintain them in idleness had no such demand been made, and rather than labour in any other vocation, they would have taken to Decoitee. Indeed, they never abstained from it, and never could, while located together upon land, with their exclusive language and exclusive feelings, and gangs of their tribe at their old trade, and in close communion with them all round.

Deposition of Sookpaul, 24th September 1839.

“ In 1840, Sumbut, we got the Jageer of Manukpoor Kuthuree. Zalim my father, and Jeykishun his brother, resided formerly in Azimghur. The Jypoor and Alwar Chiefs went to war. Pertab Sing Row, the Alwar Chief, was a freebooter, who used to go about plundering villages, and in this way he rose to be a great man. He invited Zalim Sing, my father, and his brother Jeykishun, and Shamsook Goojur, their friends, and entertained them in his service, and told them to kill for him Khooshalee Ram, son of the Dewan of the Jypoor Chief. My father got together five hundred Bagorras, and the Alwar Chief gave him twenty-five rupees a day for subsistence, and promised him a Jageer when the work should be done. At the head of five hundred Bagorras, my father and uncle attacked Khooshalee Ram, at night, in the midst of his soldiers. He was encamped with Scindia, Gholam Kadir the Hamdane, and others, a hundred thousand men. My eldest brother, Bijee Sing, the father of Soojan Sing, killed him with his dagger, and the thing was so skilfully managed, that no one else on his side, or ours, was killed. Pertab Sing gave us an estate of Manukpoor Gotree, worth three thousand rupees a year ; and to Sham Sing Goojur he gave another, Arole, worth one thousand.

“ During Pertab Sing’s reign, we gave no rent, but after his death we paid his son Bukhtawur Sing two hundred and sixteen rupees a year, and we cannot afford this rent. For the last thirty years our numbers

have increased very much, and we are reduced to distress, and obliged to work hard, to cultivate the ground and cut wood and grass, and we can't get food and clothing. The Alwar man, Pertab Sing, was a mere Thakoor before the murder of Khooshalee Ram, the holder of only two small villages and a half. He soon took from the Jypoor Rajah Territory yielding twenty-two lacks a year ! For all this he was indebted to us. Bijee Sing, my eldest brother, stole in upon and killed Khooshalee Ram with his dagger. About five years ago, my son Hurla, and Gobind the nephew of Teyja, went with Ajeet Sing and Dewa, to the Aleepore affair, but my son ate all his share of the booty and gave me none. He belonged to Runsbull's gang.

" I was not in the Bahadergur affair. Indur, son of Rutteeram, and Sohun Sing, son of Teyja, committed that Decoitee. They rendezvoused at Somachee, in the Pergunna of Luchmungur, five coss from our residence, and went in the disguise of Kowruttees. I heard this from a gardener's wife in Assar last. About twenty-five days ago, Toleea came to me, and remained with me a day and night, and told me that he had been at Mootea Futtehpoore, in Jypore, and made off when a party came. He said that he had joined the party of Indur and Sohun Sing in a Decoitee towards Delhi, but did not mention Bahadergur. Jewas, the nephew of Askurun, who has been seized, was in that affair, and I will get him seized. Askurun is my son-in-law.

" Radhakishun, Luchmun, Surdara, Gobind and Hurla, my sons and nephews, have carried on Decoitee for twelve years, ever since they found the income from our estate insufficient. No one else of the family goes ; the rest labour. About twenty years ago Newazee, my brother, committed a Decoitee in Chundalee, and gave me 1,500 rupees out of the booty acquired. If the Alwar Rajah were to let off the rent of our estate, we should have enough to subsist upon, and have no occasion to commit Decoitee. If any of my sons or nephews were to commit Decoitee after this, I would myself seize and produce them. If he does not let us off the rent, our sons and nephews will assuredly continue to be robbers. All have ran away from fear ; they will come back when I am released. Before we got the Jageer, our ancestors were robbers. My son Mohuna was present in the Seodanpoor affair, with Ajeet Sing, two or three years ago, and we got five shares yielding one hundred rupees, or eighty gold coins equal to that sum.

" The Bagorras come and reside in our villages, but when we know that they commit Decoitee, we turn them out. Bukshee's relations came here with their families, after he had been killed by Mehudee Khan, and

resided with us six months. They began to plan Decoities, and we told them to be off or we should have our estate resumed. We know all the Decoities that take place.

Shumshabad Affair. —Agra.

Deposition of Soojan Jemadar, 1st October 1839, age 52.

“ About sixty years ago, Khooshalee Ram, the Dewan of the Rajah of Alwar, left his master and joined the Jypoor Chief, and Rajah Pertab Sing of Alwar requested my father, Bijee Sing, and his father Zalim Sing, to go and put him to death. They took with them two hundred and fifty men, and, attacking the Dewan in the dead of the night, put him to death. In return for this service, the Rajah assigned my father and grandfather the estate of Manukpoor Gotra, in rent-free tenure. During the rest of Pertab Sing's reign, no rent was demanded, but during that of Bukhtawur Sing, two hundred rupees a year were demanded, and in that of Benee Sing, we have been called upon to pay six hundred and fifty, and every three years a fine of five or six hundred has been exacted. In consequence the estate has not afforded us subsistence ; and Hurla Surdar, Luchmun, Radhakishun, Sibba Surroopa, and Kowla, all go out on Decoitee, with the relations of their wives. They do not share in our labours, but they take a share in the rents of the estate. If we could have the rents of the estate remitted altogether, none of the family would go on Decoitee, but all would serve the Government to the best of their ability. I have not been out on Decoitee myself, but my brother Gobind was in the Decoitee at Aleepore, and he brought back cloth to the value of 50 or 100 rupees. I was consulted with regard to the Decoitee. Daneea, Ramlal, Ajeet, Gobind, Luchmun, Hurla, Seobha Sing deceased, Kewlah and Mahtab, (all my brothers and nephews,) were present. I will assist in securing all the Decoits if pardoned. I got five or six shares in the Aleepore Decoitee. I got two silver necklaces, with forty rupees, and forty rupees worth of cloth. Aleepore is five coss only from my village, and Daneea then resided at Rijwas, two coss from my house. Ramlal lived at Rahtee in Jypoor. Ajeet Sing had just been released after the Muthura affair. Daneea came to settle the plan, and invite my relations to join. Ajeet came to me after his release, and he settled what share I was to get. I should have gone myself, had I not been afraid that my estate would be resumed. I have been eleven months in the Alwar Jail, but I have heard from Askurun, that Indur, Sohun Sing, Jeychund, Jewas and Toleea perpetrated the Decoitee at Bahadergur during my confinement. I will try to ascertain the truth.

“ Bukshee's sons Beneeram, Seeta, Somere and Bhageerut, lived in my village a year, it is true ; but when they told me that they were

going to commit a Decoitee, I turned them out, and I never got a share of any Decoitee but that of Alespore.

“ When Bhowanee and Danees committed the Decoitee in Joudhpore, I had ten Burats, (shares) and got for them two hundred rupees. I had only five or six of my own men engaged in that affair. It took place eight or ten years ago. I have heard that those who tell the truth, will now escape hanging and the black water, and I have told all. The Bagorras all derive their subsistence from Decoitee. When a Bagorra, who holds, as I do, an estate in Jageer, takes a share in the fruits of Decoitee, how should any other Bagorra on earth abstain from it!”

*Deposition of Toleea, 15th June 1840, taken before Captain
J. Graham, at Agra.*

“Seven or eight years ago, in the month of October, while I lived in Manickpoor Gotra, I joined Bukhta Jemadar in an expedition. He had one gang there, and of this I was a member; and Hurlal, the son of Sookhpaul, the Jageerdar of Manickpoor, had another. We were about forty, and we united with a gang of thirty under Bhowanee of Gotree, which is five coss from Manickpoor. We assumed the disguise of Ganges water carriers, and Bhowanee went on five or six days before us, and rested in the village of Guree Gowin, in Alwar. Here we rejoined him, but his gang rested in a grove to the West of the town, while we lodged in a temple to the North. When our gang reached the place, he set out for Jypoor, and we followed five days after. We reached Jypoor in five days; and as soon as we arrived, Bhowanee's party left the place for Palee, where he rested for fifteen days, while we went on to Bhukur, where Bukhta and Hurlal Jemadars advised us to send three men to Palee, that they might get a Rajpoot friend of ours to look out for something worth taking.

“I, Keola Jageerdar, the son of Bukhta, and Dola, the son of Sahib Sing, now here, were sent on. We reached Palee in three days, while our friends remained dispersed about Bhukur. We found Bhowanee there with his thirty men. Dola and Keola Jageerdar, remained with his party, while Bhowanee and one of his followers went with me to the Rajpoot, who told us that five camels laden with rupees would soon come from Gwalior through the Deogur passes. We remained two days waiting at the temple of Mahadeo, and about ten o'clock on the second day, the Rajpoot came and told Bhowanee to get ready, as seven camels laden with rupees were going to Futtehpoore Bansee. We got ready immediately, and Bhowanee prepared his party of thirty. We saw the

seven camels pass, and as soon as he had pointed them out to us, the Rajpoot returned to his house. I sent Dola to call Hurlal and Bukhta, two leaders of our party, while I and Keola followed the camels with Bhowanee's gang. On that day the camels put up at a small village, nine coss from Palee, on the road to Hansee, and I entreated Bhowanee to let our party come up and adjust the rate of shares before he made the attack. He consented, and we remained at a rivulet near the village all that night. The next day the camels set out for Hansee, and we followed. They rested on a plain near the village of Peepron, nine or ten coss East from Joudhpore, and we lodged near them, but there was yet no appearance of my party.

"Bhowanee said that he could not possibly defer the attack beyond that day, and yet he saw no chance of my party coming up. "You," said he, "shall have one-fifth, and we will take four;" and he that night attacked the escort, and got two maunds and half of Spanish Dollars. Swords were put in motion, and I got a sword wound on my right arm, and Chunda got one in his shoulder, and Keola got a spear wound on his left hand, and another on the arm. Five or six of the treasure escort got wounds, but whether any of them died or not, I don't know. Taking the money, we came to a river, whose name I don't know, fourteen coss from Peepron, where we counted it, and dressed the wounds of the wounded, and washed out the stains of blood from our clothes. We remained here an hour, and had ascended the bank to resume our journey, when ten troopers and six men, mounted on three camels, and three Bagorra tracers on foot, came up from Peepron, seized eighteen of our party, and took off a maund and quarter of the dollars. Fifteen got off and took with them the other maund and quarter of dollars. They were distributed among Mana, Kulla, myself, Gungadhuree, Lulooa, Indera and others. We fled in small parties and re-assembled at Manickpoor. Some arrived in eight, some in nine, and some in ten days. Bhowanee proposed to the Jageerdars of Manickpoor Gotree, to collect the whole of the rupees, and expend them in procuring the release of their captive friends. One thousand were collected; but I did not give up the sixty dollars that I had brought with me; they were worth about a hundred and twenty-five rupees of our currency. There was no division of the booty; and Bhowanee took home the thousand dollars which he had taken for the purpose of liberating his friends, and sent off only two hundred of the currency of the place to pay for their ransom. I don't know whether he sent these rupees by a woman, or by the hands of Rajaram.

"When the eighteen Budhuks were taken before the Rajah of Joudhpore, he told the merchants to take charge of them, and release them

as soon as they made good his loss. The merchant mentioned the number of dollars deficient, and promised to let them go as soon as they were forthcoming. Keola and Bukhta, the Jageerdars of Manickpoor, told him, that if he would send them home to their estates, they would give him something more than what he had lost. He put Keola, with three of his own men, upon camels, and sent them towards Manickpoor. He remained with them three days, but at the end of that time he ran away from them and came home. The merchant's men returned to their master, who did not release any of the rest, though he got the two hundred rupees that Bhowanee sent him. He kept them for five years, and five of them died in his house at Joudhpoor, viz.—1 Kodua, the father of Gungadhuree of Gotra—2 Sookha of Gotra—3 Dhungura of Gotra—4 Buksha of Gotra—5 Gungaran. Bhowanee did not give their families any share of the booty. At the end of five years the other twelve men got their release and came home."

(Signed)

W. H. SLEEMAN,

General Superintendent.

Less was known to the European community and to the Government of India, of the colonies of this class of robbers, located to the south of the Jumna river, than of those who resided in the Oude forest, and districts to the North of that river. They were no less numerous or formidable, but they were scattered over a wider extent of country, and depredated upon districts in which there were no European Magistrates bound to record their robberies, and to account, as best they could, for their not being prevented. There were European functionaries accredited to the several Native Courts, who heard occasionally of their atrocious outrages, but it was no part of their duty to report them to Government, or to account for the impunity with which they were everywhere perpetrated. Native Chiefs and their ministers commonly knew by whom the robberies were committed; and when an influential merchant suffered, they sometimes exerted themselves vigorously in the pursuit; but when they succeeded in apprehending the offenders, which they seldom did, they released them again as soon as they had made them disgorge, and pay as much as they could borrow for their ransom.

The local authorities of such Chiefs never ventured to molest gangs of this class who resided within their jurisdictions, because they abstained from robbery within such circles, and did what they could to protect them from the depredations of others over whom they had any influence, while they shared liberally with their protectors what they acquired in

distant enterprises. The success of any ~~attempt~~ to punish them for depredations committed elsewhere, would be very uncertain, and could be of no advantage, since their Governments felt no interest in the matter, while it would be sure to bring down attacks upon their own districts, and deprive them of the substantial advantages they enjoyed from their presence. They could always get their assistance against their enemies by a moderate and temporary contribution, for the Bagries could always return to their old trade, as soon as the service was over, while it was difficult to get rid of other kinds of military aid when no longer required.

The mode in which the Chief of Alwar availed himself of the services of a gang of this class, located upon his estate, has been already described, and the Chief of Karoulee, on the left, or West bank of the Chumbul, always kept colonies of them upon his Estate ; and Mr. G. R. Clerk, when Political Agent at Jypoor, stated in a letter dated the 2d August 1829, to Major Fielding, the Resident at Gwalior, that "with regard to Ameer Sing, the leader of the Bagree Decoits of Karoulee, that Government having indemnified the merchants of Jypoor for the loss they sustained in the robbery which he committed, and the Jypoor Government not requiring his being made over to them for punishment, it is to be hoped that by means of the apprehension of that leader, the Karoulee Government will be enabled to fulfil their promises, and bring under proper subjection the whole of that marauder's tribe. Yet such is the imbecility of that petty State, that I have heard apprehensions expressed, lest the *coercion of the Bagorras should cause a revolution in the country*. I am sorry that I cannot discover in such a confession much of singularity in the character of that Government." The Karoulee Chief was not at all singular in this apprehension of the consequences of exasperating this formidable tribe of professional gang robbers. It was common to all the smaller Chiefs, and to all the Provincial Governors of the larger. They every where protected and fostered them, as did the landholders ; and the highest of them associated with the leaders of such gangs, on terms of equality and confidence. It was very common for a Chief, or the Governor of a district, in times of great difficulty and personal danger, to require from one of the leaders of such gangs, a night guard, or "Pulung ka Chokee ;" and no less so to entertain large bodies of them in the attack and defence of Forts and Camps, whenever unusual courage and skill were required.

The mode in which they aided their patrons, is well described in the narrative of Ameer Sing, taken 29th July 1839, and the facts he states have been verified. "About two years ago, Ramjeet was with

"me in a Decoy upon the house of a merchant at Lalsout in Jypoor.
 "At that time Thakoor Luchmun Sing, the Chief of Ameergur, was at
 "war with his cousin, the Rajah of Karoulee, and the Rajah invited
 "Ramjeet's father, Dana, to assist him. He went with a party of twenty
 "or thirty, who lodged in a grove outside the town, while Dana went in
 "to make his bargain with the prince, who told him to take us all off
 "to assist at the siege of Ameergur, and we should have subsistence at
 "the rate of two annas each per day. When he communicated to us
 "the Rajah's wishes, we told him that two annas a day would never
 "suffice to subsist us, and if we served the prince on these terms, we
 "must adopt some plan to make up the deficiency. After consultation
 "it was resolved, that we should rob the house of some merchant not far
 "off, and one of the party mentioned one likely to yield three or four
 "hundred rupees, at Lalsout. This man was known to be an excellent
 "Hirraweya, and his suggestion was at once adopted. Dana told off
 "twenty-five for this duty, and went himself with the rest to wait for
 "us in the grove of Rawunt Rae, about four miles from Ameergur, and
 "thirty-six from Karoulee. We went on together the first day, as we
 "were in the Karoulee territory, but the next day we separated into
 "small parties as we entered that of Jypoor. We rendezvoused at a
 "place about four miles from Lalsout, and waited till evening. After
 "sun-set, we went on, and when questioned, replied, that we were
 "soldiers seeking service. We found the house surrounded by a mud
 "wall not higher than a man. Fifteen entered, while ten remained out-
 "side to cover them. The people, who were mere shopkeepers, ran off
 "on seeing us, and we took property worth four or five hundred rupees,
 "and rejoined old Dana in the appointed grove, some thirty-four miles
 "distant. Having thus secured a small fund for subsistence, we took
 "our station among the besiegers the next morning. We got every
 "day from the commandant of the force, Girwar Sing, the subsistence
 "of two annas a day which the Rajah had promised, and no one
 "suspected that we had been off to help ourselves to a little more. We
 "fought hard, and in fifteen days Luchmun Sing evacuated the fort.
 "The duty assigned to us was to cut off all supplies, and at night to
 "attack the advanced batteries thrown out by the garrison upon
 "elevated places. The commandant allowed us to select as many as
 "we wanted of his best soldiers on whose courage we could most rely,
 "and we generally took about the same number as we were ourselves.
 "We then reconnoitred the strongest batteries, sometimes in the day
 "time in all manner of disguises, sometimes at night, creeping along
 "the ground like wild animals, till we got up close to them, and
 "saw all that we wanted to see. After we had become well ac-
 "quainted with the positions, in three or four days we entered upon
 "the attack.

“ Well armed with swords, shields and spears, and some with musquets, we advanced close to the ground, till we got so near that we could rush in upon them before the enemy could deliver their fire. No man is permitted to carry a matchlock on such occasions ; nor do we, indeed, ever carry them in our enterprises, because the light of the matches might warn people of our approach, and bring their fire upon us. When within the proper distance, the signal is given, and we start up, rush in, and kill every man we can. There are always supporting parties of troops close behind us, to follow up our attack, and keep possession of the surprised batteries. In this way we, in one night, surprised and took three of the batteries, which Luchmun Sing had placed upon a hill near his fort. The night was dark, and we attacked them all at the same time. We were about forty Bagries, and we had with us about sixty select soldiers, and for each battery we had from thirty to thirty-five men ; but we knew every inch of the ground we were to act upon, and could rely upon each other. We on such occasions stop all supplies that they try to get into the besieged fort. We watch for several nights, and permit the people to take in all they please unmolested ; and when we know all the roads by which the supplies go in, we attack them all in one night, and are allowed to keep what we get for ourselves. We have often been employed by the Rajah of Karoulee in the same manner, in his contests with Jypoor and other States. We understand night attacks thoroughly, and can manage them well ; but cannot so well manage the army work in the day-time. The Chiefs of Alwar and other States, in which we reside, always send us, if they can, with their troops employed in the siege of forts.”

The attack upon the money-changer at Lalsout took place on the 26th of August 1837. Eight hundred rupees were taken off, and four persons were wounded. The fort was attacked and taken, because Luchmun Sing refused to give up some offenders on the requisition of the British authorities. Luchmun Sing turned robber, and plundered and burnt several of his cousin's villages ; but Dana and his party, being again called upon, sent him a message to say that they would cut up his party and put him to death some night, unless he crossed the Chumbul and left his cousin's estate of Karoulee in peace. He dared not disobey this warning.

The advantage which each petty Native Chief, or Provincial Governor, had in protecting and fostering these gangs, was great, obvious, and immediate ; that which he might derive from aiding in their suppression, small, doubtful, and remote. The paramount Power did not interfere in the internal administration of particular States, and would not be likely to urge upon them the necessity of rewarding any of their officers, or dependent landholders, who might promote the general good, by assisting

in the suppression of such associations of robbers. The Chiefs themselves felt little disposition to reward such services, inasmuch as they had no obvious or immediate tendency to extend or improve their territory; and might lead to its deterioration, by the plunder of all who had any thing worth losing upon it. The Chief, and his Governors of districts, and dependent landholders, all saw that they would have to share with millions the general good arising from their particular efforts in the suppression of the gangs, and get but a small share themselves, while they hazarded a very great loss; and that they would have all the particular advantage of affording them shelter and protection to themselves, without hazarding any thing. It is not, therefore, surprising that none of them exerted themselves very cordially in the suppression of this great evil. The first nations in Europe, countenanced and supported the Algerine pirates, from the same feelings and views. One nation thought that its own ships and merchants would not only be more secure while it countenanced the depredations of these pirates upon the ships and merchants of every other; but would trade with greater advantage in proportion as the losses and sufferings of others were greater; and that it was bound to consult the good of its own merchants, even at the cost of those of all other nations. The idea of the common good of the great family of civilized nations, had not then begun to exercise any influence over the conduct of government in Europe, in their relations with these common enemies of mankind; and we must not, therefore, be either surprised or indignant to find that the Native princes of India, and their Provincial Governors and feudatories, in their conduct towards these bands of professional and hereditary robbers and murderers, regarded the general good of society, less than the particular advantage of their own estates and people.

The paramount Power in India has since brought all these Native States to co-operate more or less cordially, in a common and strong effort, to put down these Decoit associations, as it had done to put down those of the Phansigurs, or Thugs, as will be seen by and bye. It would, perhaps, be difficult to point out in the history of mankind, any other single measure which produced so much of good, or removed so much of evil among so great a family of nations, or so many millions of our fellow creatures, as that of the suppression of these bands of murderers by hereditary profession, which has been unostentatiously effected by the Government of India, chiefly through the gratuitous services of its political functionaries, accredited among the Native States; but this measure neither flattered the vain-glory of the people of any particular nation, nor enlisted on its side the self-love of any influential class or powerful individuals; and has, in consequence, been attended with no éclat. It has, however, tended to secure to the Government, the gratitude and

affection of the people of India, and is a work, of which that Government, and the people of England, may be justly proud.

The colonies of Bagree *alias* Bagorra Decoits, South of the Jumna, were of the same tribe as those to the North of that river ; spoke the same language ; intermarried with each other, and carried on their depredations upon the same plan ; but they often put on different disguises to suit the different states of society, and of the country over which they had to act. In the valley of the Ganges and Jumna, the traffic of the country is carried on chiefly upon the rivers ; and carriers of Ganges water are the most numerous class of people found upon the roads during the seasons in which these gangs move about. This was, therefore, the disguise which they most often assumed ; but south of the Jumna, the traffic is carried on almost exclusively upon bullocks, as there are neither navigable rivers nor roads for wheeled carriage ; and the disguise most commonly assumed by these gangs, was that of Brinjarras, or drivers of laden bullocks. They sometimes went in the disguise of pilgrims, of whom there are many classes in Central India, and sometimes in that of funeral processions carrying the bones or ashes of their deceased relatives to the Ganges, or that of bridegrooms going to fetch their brides, or returning with them to their own homes, called Barāts.

In the beginning of February 1837, a gang under Dana and his son Ramjeet, in the disguise of Ganges water-carriers, attacked, in the town of Syfoo in Dholepoor, the party of a merchant of Bickaner, named Lalchund, on their return from Gwalior. They had camels, ponies and carts, with them, and were detained by the custom house officers on a charge of having evaded the payment of duties. The merchant's guard was surprised and beaten off, and the gang made good their retreat with a booty of five thousand eight hundred and seventy-four rupees. At this moment a marriage procession happened to be passing through the town, and the merchant's guard having recovered from their surprise, took them to be the robbers, and fell upon them sword in hand. They in their turn hearing the word Dakoo, took the guard to be the Decoits, and defended themselves and the bridegroom, hastily. Two of the merchant's men were killed, and the merchant himself and fourteen others were wounded. How many of the marriage procession suffered I know not. The Decoits saw the mistake as they retired with their spoil, and were greatly amused at it.

They sometimes ventured to assume the disguise of a class of pilgrims which is, I believe, peculiar to Central India, called *Atthas*. The leader of the gang assumed the character of the high priest, and all the rest

that of his followers and disciples. They had some four or five tents, some of white and some of dyed cloth, and two or three pairs of "Nakaras," or kettle-drums, and trumpets, with a great number of buffaloes, cows, goats, sheep and ponies. Some were clothed, but the bodies of the greater part were covered with nothing but ashes, paint, and a small cloth waistband. Those who had long hair, went bareheaded, and those who had nothing but short hair, wore a piece of cloth round the head. But they always provided themselves with five or six real Byragees, or mendicant followers of Vishnoo, whose services for such occasions they purchased at a very high price. These real Byragees were always put forward in cases of difficulty, to answer the questions of public officers, and bully the landholders and peasantry. This party often remained for days together at one place, while their Hirraweyas were in search of prey. On arriving at a village, the kettle-drums and trumpets were sounded, and some of the party were sent in with silver sticks, on the part of his highness, the high priest, to bring the head man to pay his respects, and exact from him the established offering, or Nuzurana of one rupee and a quarter. If this was not paid, they remained the next day and exacted double the sum. Besides this offering, the landholder was obliged to furnish gratis, porters to carry the tents, flag, drums, trumpets, and every thing else, as the pilgrims never condescended to carry anything themselves, and were not supposed to have the means of hiring carriage. When the landholders demurred to pay, the real Byragees, who are "*au fait*" at all kinds of tricks calculated to prey upon their fears, were put forward. They held in their hands a preparation of gunpowder, resembling common ashes; and when they found the people very stubborn, they repeated their "munters," or incantations, over this, and threw it upon the thatch of the nearest house, to which it set fire. The explosion was caused by a kind of fusee held in their hand, which the people could not see, and taking it for a miracle, they paid all that was demanded. More, however, was never demanded than what real parties of pilgrims of this class exact, to avoid suspicion, and they were seldom reduced to the necessity of having recourse to such tricks. They never, at the same time, waived their claim to any single point usually conceded to the real parties of the Alukramies, lest their forbearance might give rise to suspicion. Such a party had with it a large red flag upon a long pole, with the figure of Hunooman, or the sun and the moon, embroidered upon it. On one occasion they prevailed upon Cheytun Das, a celebrated Byragee of Hindoon in Jypoor, then eighty years of age, to enact the high priest, and he was accompanied by his chief disciple, or son, Gunga Das. They were obliged to take great care of him, and pay him a large sum for his services; but by having him, they escaped all suspicion, and succeeded in their enterprise.

The bones or ashes of the deceased, are carried to the Ganges in bags. Those of females in red, and those of males in white ; and these bags are not allowed to touch the ground on the way. They are placed on poles or triangles when in the open air, and treated with great reverence. Those who convey and accompany them, are treated with respect as persons engaged in a pious duty, and seldom questioned by people on the road. When a gang assumed this disguise, they proceeded to their place of rendezvous in small parties, some with red and some with white bags, in which they carried the bones of animals which most resembled those of the human frame. These were supported upon triangles, formed of the staffs upon which the spear-heads were to be placed when they reached their destination, and had to prepare for action. When they went in the disguise of marriage processions, they imitated the character and condition of the parties they wished to represent ; and thoroughly acquainted as they were with the manners, customs, and language of the people among whom they practiced their trade, they were hardly ever detected or suspected in their disguises. From the Indus to the Jumna, and the Nerbudda to the Himmaleh Mountains, there was hardly a district free from the depredations of these gangs of Bagree Decoits, when our operations against them began in 1839.

There can be no doubt that the system of religious mendicity in India is a great source of insecurity to life and property, from the facility which it affords for professional robbers and murderers of all classes to pursue their avocations with impunity ; and that of carrying the raw produce of the land, from the agricultural districts, on the backs of bullocks, from the want of navigable rivers and good roads, is not less so. A great many of those who are really what they pretend to be, able-bodied religious vagrants and mendicants, are, at the same time, thieves and robbers of one kind or another. They abound every where, and are held in so much dread by the people, that robbers and murderers of all kinds can, when they like, assume their disguise without much apprehension of being any where subjected to a very inconvenient scrutiny. The high priest of every temple in India, thinks himself authorized to make as many disciples as he likes, without any regard to the endowments he may have for their subsistence ; and such disciples think themselves at liberty to go as beggars and vagrants into any part of India they please, to demand contributions in the name of their apostle. They return to him periodically with such portion of their gains as they may think it expedient to contribute to the common stock. All bring something to the temple ; and when a temple is endowed with land in India, it is commonly at the same time endowed with the privilege of levying from

the community a hundred times the value of its rent through the medium of these wandering disciples. A strong Government in India may, by and bye, be able to adopt measures to relieve the community from much of the evil they now suffer from this system of religious mendicity ; and the community will feel grateful for the boon, in the same manner as they now feel grateful for the destruction of wolves, which they have a religious dread of destroying themselves. They dare not attempt to shake off the incubus themselves, however much they may suffer from it ; but the sovereign of a State might prohibit, under penalties, the high priests of all temples within his jurisdiction, from sending disciples beyond the boundaries of the districts in which they stand ; and authorize Magistrates and other local authorities, to send back all such disciples, when found wandering beyond such boundaries, to the Magistrates or sovereigns of the districts to which they belong, that the penalties may be enforced either upon them, if they have assumed a character to which they have no right, or upon the high priest, if they are really his disciples. The few able-bodied, religious mendicants, who have no pretensions to the character of disciples, may then be dealt with as ordinary vagrants.

This would be a very strong measure, in which all the Native Chiefs of India would be required cordially to unite, and it would be liable to a great deal of abuse on the part of the Police. At the same time it must be remembered, that religious mendicity, though an evil, and the source of much mischief, is not altogether an unmitigated one. In a climate like that of India, where so little is required of clothing and accommodation by the mass of the people, and where fashions in dress, furniture and equipage never change, a great portion of the community must eat the bread of idleness, particularly under a Government which can do all its work with small establishments, and maintains none that it can possibly dispense with. In such a state, religious mendicity acts, in some measure, as a safety-valve, and carries off many of the unquiet spirits that might otherwise disturb the peace of society, and take by violence what they now get by religious importunity.

The Brinjaras, to whom the carrying of bullocks belong, always prefer bye-paths to high roads, though the distance should be much greater ; as they find more grass for their bullocks, and more fuel for themselves, along the line of such paths. For the same reason, they prefer encamping in jungles, and on the banks of rivers and water courses, remote from towns and villages, when obliged to travel upon the high roads. In these encampments, dark crimes are often perpetrated by this class of people. Poor parents, while emigrating from districts, suffering from calamities of season, in search of others more favored, are in such encampments

often murdered for the sake of their children, who are secured and taken on for sale to the native aristocracy, or to the prostitutes of towns. It is upon the roads by which such poor people emigrate, that these encampments are most to be found, as the Brinjaras transport the grain from the favored to the suffering districts. In almost every district through which they pass, they steal children, whom they dispose of in the great towns and Military Cantonments, which depend upon them for their supply of grain. They are an exclusive class, who mix little with the rest of the community, live altogether in their camps and bivouacs in the jungles, and have all their families with them. Good roads for wheeled carriages, and navigable canals, would be a great blessing to the people of India, if they did nothing more than relieve them from the necessity of employing such a class of people in the transport of their goods.

Mr. Halhed, the Deputy Superintendent of Police in the N. W. Provinces, states on the 21st August 1811, that the Rana of Dholepoor had long been in the habit of harbouring Decoits, and receiving money from them ; and he estimates the amount of property taken by Decoits from our districts to the Dholepoor Territory, at four, and that taken into the Gwalior Territory, at two lacs of rupees a year. The Budhuk gangs reside, he says, almost exclusively in the Gwalior and Dholepoor Territories, while they extend their depredations down even into Bengal ; and he estimates the value of the booty acquired by this class alone, at not less than ten lacs of rupees a year ; of which their patrons and protectors, the chiefs and their officers or landholders, get the greater part. Almost all the great landholders kept Budhuks, or other professional Decoits, on their estates, some at wages, but the greater part on condition of sharing in the booty.

On the 1st of April 1812, Sookdewa, a follower of Chunda, the principal leader of the Budhuk gangs of the Chumbul, in the Dholepoor Territory, went to Mr. Halhed, and described a Decoitee which he had committed on the house of a banker in the town of Gwalior (Ambasee Das and Khoshal Chund) on the night of the 21st of October 1811, in which they got fifty-four thousand rupees of the Gwalior coinage, nineteen thousand rupees worth of jewellery, one thousand rupees worth of silver ornaments, ten swords, and five pair of shawls, and killed nine and wounded six of the banker's servants. An active Commandant of a Troop of Cavalry in the service of Scindheea, happened to be on duty at the fort gate close by, and on hearing the noise, went to the spot. The Decoits had, however, gone off with the property. After seeing the dead bodies removed, and the wounded taken care of, he pursued the Decoits on the road to Dholepoor. He soon came up with a speckled mare covered with blood, and a little further on with one of the Decoits who had received

a spear wound in the side, and being no longer able to keep his seat on the mare, had tried to conceal himself in the brushwood.

He traced the gang to the Dholepoor Territory, and demanded their surrender from the Rana, Kheerut Sing, who protested that he had not such a thing as a robber within his Estate. The Rasuldar went and found them very comfortably located in the bivouacs, and reported to the Gwalior Court. Scindheea wrote to the Rana, describing the atrocious Decoitee, and praying that he would restore the property and punish the offenders. The Rana hated the Chief of Gwalior, and would do nothing, till he got the Resident at his Court to prevail upon the Resident at Delhi, to urge upon him the necessity of calling the robbers to an account. The Rana then sent a party and seized the families of Chunda and other influential leaders, and insisted upon having the box of jewels. He was urged in vain to surrender them to Scindheea ; and Chunda contrived to get himself seized by the Superintendent of Police, North Western Provinces, Mr. Guthrie, and to prevail upon him to intercede for the release of his wife and family, on a promise of rendering him valuable aid in the suppression of gang robbery. Having effected the release of his wife and family, through Mr. Guthrie's influence, without the sacrifice of his box of jewels, and made his followers disgorge nearly all the shares they had taken of the spoil at Gwalior, on a threat of getting them arrested by the British Authorities, unless they indemnified him for all that he and his family had suffered during their confinement, Chunda pretended he could do nothing, and Mr. Guthrie released him on the ground that his guilt in the Gwalior Decoitee had not been proved. Mr. Halhed then got hold of him, but he could make no use of him ; and Chunda was again released, because no proof could be found of his having ever committed a Decoitee in the Honorable Company's Territory, though he was then the most notorious leader of the Budhuk Decoits West of the Junna.

Mr. Halhed observes, " to release Chunda on security is useless. He " possesses property to a large amount, the product of his depredations, " and every sacrifice would be made to effect his release. As to the " notoriety of his being a leader of Decoits, there is not an inhabitant of " this part of India who does not fear him on that account, though I confess I know not any one hardy enough to draw the displeasure of the " Budhuks upon himself by informing against him." The only person who got any thing out of Chunda and his party, on this occasion of the Gwalior Decoitee, was Goman Sing, the tihseeldar of Rajkhera in Dholepoor, a relation of the Rana, who contrived to squeeze out of the wives and children of the leaders whom he had secured, a good many of the rupees, and a valuable pearl necklace, which he made them put round the neck of his son. Neither the bankers, who were robbed, nor Scindheea,

nor the Rana, got any thing. Chunda continued occasionally at his trade of Decoitee, and occasionally assisting, or pretending to assist, the Magistrates in the pursuit of Decoits, till the year 1833, when he died in the Oude Turae of the debauch which followed the successful attack on the Ex-Peshwa at Bithore, in which they got a booty of above two hundred and fifty thousand rupees in gold.

By those who advocated the measure of inviting in all existing colonies of Budhuk Decoits, and locating them upon grants of land, the difficulties and risks of such a measure, were but little understood. Our Territories did not contain one-twentieth part of the great body which we should have had to collect ; and we should have found it impossible to collect them by mere invitation, without offering them as little of labour, and as much of luxury, as they then enjoyed in their wild state, with all the same hopes of rising to wealth and distinction. We should have had to give to a leader of robbers and murderers, with his four or five wives, more pay than we give to a Native Commissioned Officer, who had served our Government faithfully thirty or forty years, who had his breast covered with medals, and his body with honorable scars. Had we at any time increased the labour from absolute idleness, or diminished their subsistence from absolute luxury, they would have been off to their native forests and ravines.

It was said that the wives, widows and children, depending upon offenders arrested and incarcerated, would be left destitute ; but the wives and widows of people of this kind in India very soon get provided for ; and young children, instead of being a burthen, are commonly an advantage to them in their search for service and protection. Mahomedans, who have no children of their own, are always anxious to adopt the children of destitute parents, and will provide for the maintenance of the mother with this view. They will often do so even when they have children of their own, as they are fond of having domestic servants brought up from childhood in their families. A widow of the lower classes, who permit re-marriages, with or without children, is hardly ever long at a loss in India, where polygamy prevails—adoption is so very common ; and a woman can, by her labour or service, contribute so much to the subsistence of the family. No care is ever taken of the widows and children of other classes of casual offenders, who are shut up in our prisons under sentences of imprisonment for life or for long periods ; and how little have the wives and widows of these professional robbers deserved of our consideration ! They know of every expedition that takes place, and secure for themselves and their children, a share in all the booty brought home, and they know that a Decoitee by their husbands hardly ever takes place without murder. They besiege every Court

through which any of the leaders and influential members of the gangs have to pass when arrested, with money and personal attractions ; and such leaders have generally three or four of them. Their widows may marry again as often as they please ; and it is not at all uncommon for them to exchange one living husband for another.

These colonies do much to demoralize society where they happen to be located among the people, and not in the forest. They bribe the landholders, capitalists and cultivators, and the Native Police Officers, from the highest to the lowest ; they introduce habits of drunkenness and debauchery ; and perjury and subornation of perjury, become a trade among their friends and patrons, who require to be well skilled in them to screen the offenders from justice. Every member of the community of a village in or near which they reside, is made to feel some advantage or other from the booty they acquire ; the village servants are all paid liberally for the little offices they perform ; the goldsmiths get a good deal for melting and disposing of the gold and silver ornaments ; the shopkeepers sell to them their goods on credit, and at exorbitant prices ; the little capitalists get cent. per cent. interest for the money they advance to enable them to enter upon their enterprises, and for their subsistence in the intervals between their expeditions ; the village priests get liberal shares of the booty for themselves and their gods, and the affections of all become by degrees enlisted on their side. Some of the highest Native Officers of the neighbouring Courts, in time share in their spoils, and become interested in their success and impunity. In Bengal it would appear, as already stated, that a Christian landholder of highly respectable station in society, was found unable to resist the temptations of a branch of the Budhuk colonies, located in that quarter. He seems to have collected them around him, and to have connived at their being employed, precisely in the same manner as an ordinary native landholder collects and employs them in every part of India, where they are found located. Had we attempted to invite in and colonise these people, with a view to their being employed as cultivators of the soil, they would assuredly have remained what they had always been, robbers and murderers, in spite of all our efforts to prevent it ; and have continued to corrupt and render subservient to their purposes, any agency that we might have employed to look after them.

The small off-sets from the great colonies of the Oude forest, who established themselves in the districts North of the Ganges in Rohilcund, and those of the Delta of the Ganges and Jumna, were always supposed to be under the surveillance of the District Police, who were enjoined to keep a strict watch over them, and never allow them to be absent from their villages. Their leaders, Khinma, Khunjun, Pohub Sing and Kun-

hae, were entertained in the Police Establishments of the districts ; yet they were the very men who attacked and plundered the Government treasuries at Sakeet, Patealee, Gorole and other places, and at last obliged Government actually to build fortifications around the small treasury of every Native Collector, so often had they been attacked, their treasure carried off, and all who attempted to defend it, killed or wounded.

The gangs to the North and South of the Ganges, commonly united their forces in such enterprises, and not unfrequently, when occasion required, procured reinforcements from the Oude forest. They commonly spared the treasuries of the districts in which they resided, but considered all others as legitimate prey ; and some portion of the Police commonly shared liberally in their spoil ; and, like the landed interests, did all they could to screen them with a view to secure a continuance of the profit, and to prevent the shares which they had had in their crimes, from becoming known or suspected.

With the ease and security which such agricultural colonies would enjoy under us, their members would increase more rapidly than they did while exposed to so many checks to population ; and others of the great fraternity, who are now mere thieves and pickpockets, would take to Decoitee, seeing that at the worst they would only have to accept of our invitation, and become colonists upon such very favorable terms. If the terms had not pleased any particular colony to whom a mission might have been sent, it would have moved before such terms could have been reconsidered, having no local ties, and being as free as Adam and Eve, " to choose their place of rest," and we might not have been able to trace them again for many years. All we could have given, would have been insufficient to content them. They would always have wished to get more, and labour less, and been persuaded by their leaders and females, that they could get more in their native forests, where they could marry more, wives, and adopt more children ; have better opportunities of rising to distinction ; a better field for hunting and shooting over, while at home, and more stirring incidents " by flood and field" to excite them, while absent on their expeditions. All these things would have been to them " the flesh-pots of Egypt," without the Red Sea as a barrier to restrain them under the rod of their new masters.

The cost of supporting such colonies under such circumstances, would have been enormous. If we have drawn off all the men, women and children, that composed the existing colonies in Oude, Gwalior, Jypoor, Alwur, Karowlee and Bhurtpoor, and kept them in the style necessary to ensure their voluntary residence upon the lands assigned to them, each family would have cost us, on an average, ten rupees a month.

Supposing that there had been only three thousand families, they would have cost us at least three hundred thousand rupees a year. These Native States would have continued to be nurseries for the same class of people; for the germs of new establishments would always have been found, and every year would have afforded us a new supply, while what we had collected, would have gone on increasing in numbers, without losing any of their inclinations or qualifications for gang robbery; and would have spread out their branches again from the Himmaleh Mountains to the banks of the Mahanuddee, the Nerbudda and the Indus; and I believe that Government has escaped a very great evil by not yielding to the proposal of forming such exclusive colonies, with a view to reclaim this class of offenders.

I have said that the more enterprising of these men, when settled down in colonies, would be always regretting the opportunities which their wild life had given of rising to distinction. There is no class of men among whom the gradation of rank was better preserved than among these Budhuk colonies, or among whom those who filled the different grades, had more of the qualities required for the efficient discharge of the duties appertaining to them. Their chief leaders took their places on equal terms, among the official and landed aristocracy of the country around them. They were invited to assist at the marriage and other ceremonies of the great territorial Chiefs, or feudal Barons, and of the Amils or Counts, who represented the sovereign over the countries in which they were located; and on such occasions they received from their trains of followers, as much deference and respect, as the highest of the land, though at home they seemed to be all brothers of the same great family, and the chief ate the same food, and drank the same spirits, and wore the same apparel, as the humblest of his followers. When the daughter of Gungaram Sa of Khyreegur in Oude, was married to the Rajah Arjun Sing of Dhorehra, Mungal Sing, the chief leader of the Oude Turae colonies, received his invitation to assist at the ceremony with as much form as the first Baron or Count in the country. He was a young man of about thirty-five, handsome, brave, sedate, and sagacious; and he owed his position to the feeling which seemed to pervade all, that he was the man best able to lead them in action, direct them in council, and represent them among the great officers and landholders, whose support and influence they required. Gujraj Sing long held the same position among the colonies of the Chumbul, and it led to familiar intercourse with higher and more numerous members of the landed and official aristocracy of the country. He was on the most easy and friendly terms with the Rajah of Nurwar, one of the proudest Rajpoot Chiefs in India, who boasted of having in his veins the blood of a long line of kings, and of never having condescended to bow his head to the great Maharajah of the Gwalior State;

and with the Karowlee, and other reigning Princes of the country. He was in manner, person, and language, one of the finest old men that I have seen in India ; and a bolder and abler leader, the Bhuduk colonies have never had. In collisions among these turbulent aristocracy, he was long looked up to as a man who could give the victory to whom he pleased, since he could do what no other person among them could,—rely entirely upon the courage and devoted fidelity of every man around him in the hour of danger.

The plan of making the Native Chiefs themselves, under the guidance of the British functionaries accredited to their Courts, the chief means of punishing these offenders, and of suppressing within their respective territories the odious system, which their own landholders and ministerial officers had for so many generations fostered and encouraged, tended to relieve our Government from a great portion of the expense attending so great an undertaking. It tended, at the same time, to spread over these States, a knowledge of their crimes ; of the mode in which they had so long been able to perpetrate them with impunity, and of the only effectual means of putting a stop to them. Though the Decoit colonies commonly spared the districts in which they were for the time located, provided the local authorities left them unmolested, and made it appear that they really felt an interest in the security of their wealthy merchants, (which was by no means the case at all times) each colony respected only its own particular district ; and every district became, in consequence, liable to attacks from gangs furnished by colonies located in the districts around it. Thus Oude, Gwalior, Jypoor, Karowlee, Dholepoor, Bhurtpoor and Alwur, all suffered from the depredations of the Bhuduk gangs, though all had protected and fostered colonies of this class, as the tables of ascertained decoities will show. These Native Chiefs generally so far regarded the welfare of the wealthy merchants, to whom the Bhuduk gangs for the most part confined their attacks, that they did not like to see them plundered by any body but themselves ; and they and their people were glad to see withdrawn the dark curtain, which had hitherto concealed the source and agency of such attacks, which had often come upon them in so “questionable a shape” as to appear almost supernatural.

The British Political functionaries, with the concurrence of the Courts to which they were accredited, presided at the trial of both Thugs and Decoits. Native officers, appointed by the Native Chiefs, assisted at the trials as assessors, or on a perusal of the proceedings, recorded their opinion as to the verdict and sentence, when they did not find it convenient to assist personally at the trial. In Mysore, the trials were conducted by a Court of Panchaet, under the superintendence of one of the Covenanted European Assistants to the Resident, acting as a kind of

Judge Advocate, and the same system has been followed in the Rajpootana States. The proceedings in such cases were submitted for revision to the Resident, and finally to the Governor General in Council. Nothing could be more satisfactory than all such trials have been from Mysore, and they would have been no less so in Rajpootana, had the final sentence been left to the presiding European authorities. At other places, the proceedings of the European presiding Officer have been submitted to the Native Chiefs, or to Officers appointed by them for the purpose ; and their opinion has been recorded as to the verdict and sentence ; but where the prisoner has been declared guilty, the final sentence has been left to the European authority. In the case of a sentence of death, however, the concurrence of the Native Chief has been declared to be indispensable. Sentence of death is, however, no longer pronounced either upon a Thug or Decoit, since the passing of Acts XXX. of 1836, and XXIV. of 1843.

The British Government has consented to bear the expense of subsisting such prisoners as are sentenced by Courts, in which European Covenanted Servants are among the presiding Judges. The women and children of such prisoners, disperse among the people of these States, to be maintained by them, instead of becoming a burthen upon our Government, as they would have been, had they been formed into agricultural colonies, or upon the people of our districts, as beggars and vagrants. Scattered among the people, they are as a drop in the ocean ; and, like that drop, they will, it is to be hoped, in time become indiscriminately blended in the mass in which they become absorbed. They must learn to live by cultivating the good will and good opinion of those around them, who "earn their bread by the sweat of the brow ;" and by degrees lose the exclusive language, habits, and feelings, which had so long separated them from the rest of their species.

The unpaid agency of political functionaries at Native Courts, which has been called into exertion by the measures for the suppression of Thuggee and Decoittee throughout India, cannot be too highly appreciated. From one end of India to the other, all have united their efforts to secure success to this great undertaking ; and so beneficial to the people of India has been the result, that there is, I believe, no part of their public life to which those, who have had most to do in the work, look back with more pride and pleasure.

In order to secure a more cordial and effectual co-operation on the part of the Gwalior Court in our measures, the Assistant to the Resident, Captain Ellis, was, on the 3rd December 1840, appointed an Extra Assistant to the Commissioner, with an addition to his salary of two hundred

rupees a month; and in October 1841, the Court was prevailed upon by the Resident, Colonel Speirs, to raise a small Police force, to be employed under him, and paid through him, of the strength noted in the

* 1 Tomandar,.....	30
2 Naibs, at 15 each,.....	30
10 Duffadars, at 10,	100
160 Nujeebs, at 5,	80
1 English Writer,	25
1 Mootsuddes,	10
1 Bheestee,	5
Batta for Nujeebs on command, } and other Contingencies,..... }	200
<hr/>	
Total,...Co.'s Rs.	1,200

margin*. This establishment having to look to Captain Ellis for pay and promotion, was found very efficient in the pursuit of offenders; and urged and encouraged by the Resident, the Durbar authorities, instead of fostering these gangs, as heretofore, gave

effectual aid in their suppression. Captain Harris, one of the Assistants to the Resident at Indore, was, in the same manner, made an Extra Assistant to the Commissioner, and his extra allowance of two hundred rupees a month is paid by the Court. The Assistant to the Resident at Nagpore, in the same capacity, receives the same extra allowance of two hundred rupees a month from that Court, and has his establishments, one hundred and fifty-two rupees a month, and office rent, forty rupees provided by it. The first Assistant to the Resident at Hyderabad, in the same capacity, receives from that Court the same extra allowance, and office and establishments, with two hundred rupees a month for the subsistence of prisoners, total 592 rupees a month. The king of Oude provides a jail, with suitable establishments for prisoners, and bears the greater part of the charge of the frontier Police, recently established within his dominions, to aid the Magistrates of our conterminous districts, in the arrest of fugitive offenders of all classes, and placed under the superintendence of Captain Hollings, the Assistant in charge of the Thuggee and Decoitee duties in Oude. This frontier Police is found very efficient on the Eastern border, under Captain Orr, but not so much so on the Western border, under Captain Hearsey, owing to the more turbulent and refractory character of the landed aristocracy, and the more unsettled state of the country.

CHAPTER VII.

The next notice, (after Mr. Halhed's), that I find of the Budhuk Decoits, South of the Jumna, by the Magistracy of our districts, is in a Police Report by Mr. Mansel, Magistrate of the Agra district, for the first six months of 1838. The following is an extract from that Report :

Extract from Mr. Mansel's Police Report for the Agra district, for the first six months of 1838.

“ The partial outbreak of Decoitee at Agra, during the past year, and the investigations resulting therefrom, seem to call for a few observations from me on the extent of organization of this class of robbers on this frontier, and the local means in progress, or in contemplation, to aid in destroying it. Somewhat has been done by the active operations of the Agra Police, as detailed above, to break up the lawless bands of Toourgur and Kuchwahagur, in the Gwalior country, South-west of the Chumbul ; and much more to shame, or rather to terrify, the Karowlee and Hindoun authorities, from affording for a time protection to the Bagoorahs, in the belt of the mountainous and broken country, which lies between the Southern part of Jypoor and the Chumbul. But the local object of warning, as it were, these desperadoes of the Agra district, being secured, the recruiting of the broken bands will again take place, and their organization will continue to perfect itself, more or less rapidly and extensively, as the lapse of time allows matters again to fall into their natural or former state. Now, if Decoitee is to be effectually put down upon the Western Frontier, measures must be resorted to beyond our provinces, independent of sifting out each particular case actually committed in the British districts lying upon either bank of the Jumna, the Dooab or Saugor. At present, in respect to the gangs of these land pirates, who stud the country from Goterah, Manuckpoor in Alwar, to Sumbulgurh and Seopoor on the Kota Frontier, the British Magistrates possess no power to act in the work of extermination, and the native authorities, by at least the negative encouragement of allowing residence with impunity, do actually promote the growth of the fraternity of Bagoorah Decoits. But the close enquiry into the secret history of each colony, would, I feel and know, display a detail of mercenary protection

from Kallahdars, Aumils and Durbar Officers, that may rank with the proceedings of the Bureysurah, Hatras and Anameesah Chiefs, at the commencement of the British rule in Agra and Allyghur. So far as a detailed history of the leaders of each colony of Bagooreeahs in Alwar, Jypoor, Karowlee, and Gwalior; its first origin, past actions and present state is concerned, a little leisure would enable even myself to fill up the skeleton sketches *seriatim*, which I have, from the nature of my late enquiries, been induced, from time to time, to draw out, and lay before Mr. Fraser, the Superintendent of Decoitee. But in the adoption of practical measures consists the difficulty felt by each Frontier Magistrate, fettered, as he is, by local powers and duties, in moving in such important matters. There are two classes of Decoits connected with plundering excursions in this quarter. The Bagooreeahs, or Budhuks, spread over the country, from the Southward of the Chumbul to Alwar, and the Rajpoots of the Toour and Kuchwaha tribes, whose ravine fastnesses line the right banks of the Chumbul, from Jingnee due North of Gwalior, to Bhawunpoora and Bhind, East of Gohud in the same country. A much more perfect organization exists among the Bagooreeahs than among the robbers of the Rajpoot classes. The extension of Act No. XXX. 1836, (by which the 'having belonged to a gang of Thugs' was declared an offence,) to the tribe of Budhuks, with its minor branches, like the Harboorahs, would make a great advance towards the power of eradicating the crime from this side of India. It would bring the whole frontier territories of Rajwara and of the Marhatta Chiefs, within the scope of the Decoitee Department, to other purpose than that of mere antiquarian or statistical research. But even then a Commissioner, mostly or wholly engaged in the interior of our own provinces, and a local Magistracy cramped by treasury and revenue settlement duties, would prove by no means an efficient machinery for sweeping this frontier of the Budhuk communities. Much aid in respect to information, co-operation, and Police force, could be given of course by the Magistrates between Delhi and Etawah. But the substantive duty of investigation and apprehension, could only be effectually and safely undertaken by Ambulatory Officers, acting much in the way of the best part of the system of the Thuggee Department, and seeing too with their own eyes and working with their own hands. Operations thrown into the hands of Native Officers in charge of informers, directed from a distant part of the British Provinces, and intended to be checked by Frontier Magistrates, will not secure, even if treachery be prevented, any important result, even in regard to those cases over which the jurisdiction of British Law lies. The appointment of an Assistant of the Agent in Rajpootana, to the duty of mapping, as it were, the whole Budhuk country beyond the Western frontier, (a man, of course, of varied qualifications) would alone, I humbly think, and have long thought, secure any results in this

quarter of national importance. It were beyond my province and ability to take up the subject in all its relations; but I may be permitted to observe here, that the appointment of a special authority, whether in or out of the Regulation Provinces, for the trial of commitments, would best answer the end desired. Much acquaintance with the nature and merits of Budhuk Approver's evidence, and also with the general system of Budhuk Decoity, would be an indispensable judicial qualification, no less than prominent ability for conducting such a class of trials; since, whether the verdict of the Commissioner was final or subject to reference, each trial would stand or fall equally, by the individual views and report of a superior Officer, I have no doubt, as by his power of ultimate adjudication, at least with such rare exceptions as would be of no importance on general considerations. What then I mean to be inferred is, that the ordinary Sessions Court could not now grapple with the most difficult cases, turning upon Approver's evidence. In short the Police investigation must be, I conceive, entrusted to special hands acting under the Rajpootana Agent; the trial of the commitments must devolve on a special judicial office, and if possible, on special judicial qualifications; and the law must be altered, so as to embrace within its grasp, a class of men who are scarcely less the common enemies of mankind and social order, than the pirates of the ocean."

But the depredations of these gangs, in our own districts, as well as those of the Native States, had never ceased, though they had been occasionally checked by the exertions of able and active Magistrates like Mr. Mansel. In January 1839, a gang of about fifty, under Gujraj, who was among these colonies, what the great Kullunder had been among those of the Oude Forest, scaled the wall of Jhansi, the largest town in Bundelcund, and was engaged for two hours in plundering the Bankers, in what is called the Surafa, of property to the value of forty thousand rupees, which they carried off without losing a man, or having one hurt or taken. Gujraj was a very fine looking man, and a gentleman in manners. He was on terms of intimacy with the Rajah of Nurwur, and other Chiefs of equal rank and note; and the Nurwur Chief generally got from his gang a night guard to protect him while he slept, as the only men he could entirely trust. The Rajah of Jhansi had gone to attend a marriage in the Duteea Rajah's family, and had taken with him, for purposes of display, almost all his troops; and Gujraj took advantage of the occasion to scale the fine wall which surrounded his capital, and commit this robbery. It is thus described by Cheyna, one of his followers, in his deposition taken 30th September 1839, and the account was afterwards confirmed by Gujraj himself. "Three years ago I joined a gang of fifty Decoits under Gujraj, in an expedition to Jhansi. We went first to Mondegree in Nurwur, in the Gwalior Territory, whence Gujraj sent

“ on Tooleea to get intelligence. In eight or ten days he returned, and
 “ reported, that he had reconnoitred a merchant’s house in the town of
 “ Jhansi, which contained a good deal of property. We went on six
 “ miles to a grove, where we took the auspices by the process of *okut*,
 “ (counting of grains) and found the omens favourable. We then rested
 “ three days, and settled the rates in which we should all share
 “ in the booty. Four or five men (who were considered too feeble
 “ to take any part in the enterprise) were sent back, and the
 “ rest well armed, strong, and full of courage, went on. In the evening
 “ of the fourth day, we reached a plain about a mile from the town,
 “ where we rested to take breath for an hour; about nine o’clock we got
 “ to the wall, and remained under it till midnight, preparing the ladders
 “ from materials which we had collected on the road. They were placed
 “ to the wall, and we entered and passed through the town without
 “ opposition. A marriage procession was going on before us, and the
 “ people thought we belonged to it. We found the banker’s shops closed.
 “ Thana and Saldewa, who carried the axes, soon broke them open, while
 “ Kulean lighted up his torch. Gujraj, with twenty men, entered, while
 “ the rest stood posted at the different avenues leading to the place.
 “ When all the property they could find had been collected, Gujraj hailed
 “ the god Hunooman, and gave orders for the retreat. We got back
 “ safely to Mondegree, in two days and a half, and there reposed for two
 “ or three days with the Rajah of Nurwur, with whom we left five or
 “ six of our stoutest men, as a guard, and then returned home with our
 “ booty, consisting chiefly of diamonds, emeralds, gold and silver bullion,
 “ rupees, and about sixty pounds of silver wire. None of our people
 “ were either killed or wounded; but whether any of the banker’s people
 “ were, I know not. We were not molested during the attack, nor did
 “ any one, that we know of, pursue us in our retreat. The Rajah of
 “ Nurwur and our leader, were old and staunch friends; and in conse-
 “ quence, the Rajah has always five or six of his staunchest followers,
 “ as a guard about his person. The Rajah is, what they call, a Ghuraseea,
 “ and commits depredations upon all parts of the country within twenty
 “ or thirty miles of his residence. He has, in consequence, a great many
 “ enemies, of whom he is much afraid, unless he has some of Gujraj’s
 “ men about him, while he sleeps.” In this affair one of the banker’s
 men was killed, and another severely wounded; and property to the
 value of forty thousand and sixty-six rupees, was taken off.

The month before December 1838, a gang from the colonies in the
 Oude forest under Dhurmoo, entered the populous town of Chupra, in our
 own territories, in the same manner, and deliberately possessed themselves
 of all the property found in the house of its richest merchant, as describ-
 ed in the following letter from Captain Ramsay, the Joint Magistrate.

TO MAJOR W. H. SLEEMAN,

&c. &c. &c.

Moradabad.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 3d instant, requesting an account of the proceedings of the gang of Decoits, in their attack on this place in December last, I have the honor to state, that about half past six of the evening of the 12th of that month, a gang of men, said to have been armed with spears, swords, and axes, entered the town from the southward, in two separate bodies; one proceeded direct to the Police Thana, which is situated about two hundred yards south-west from the house of Doorgbejae, a merchant of this city, and the other lined the different lanes and streets leading to the Police Thana and banker's house. Doorgbejae was sitting in the verandah of his shop, talking to Buharee Noonear. The first intimation Doorgbejae received of their approach was the entry of two men with axes, into the verandah where he was sitting, who immediately struck him and Buharee each a blow on the head with an axe, and a third lighted a torch, on seeing which, Doorgbejae being no longer in doubt of the character of his assailants, effected his escape; his companion was not so fortunate, as he was seized, and two men holding the points of spears to his breast, told him, if he moved or called out, they would run him through; ten or twelve men had by this time entered the house, some searching one room, and some another; one or two proceeded to the upper story, when on their return, Buharee overheard them remark to one of the party, that "there was no treasure," this person replied, "yes there is," and pointing to a room which none had yet entered, the door of which was fastened in the native way by a chain, said, "that is the room," when immediately the door was broken open, and the chest containing twelve thousand rupees, and a bag containing eighteen or twenty rupees of copper pice, and jewels to the value of seven or eight hundred rupees, taken away, and the party then made their retreat by the same road they had come.

The other party, who proceeded to the Thana, immediately seized all the arms, which in consequence of the absence at the time of all the Policemen but two, Mehurallee and John Betts, a Native Christian, and the Jemadar Inaentallee, were piled in a corner. Several Decoits stood over this party in the Thana, and the remainder lining the streets and lanes, allowed no one to approach; a servant of the Principal Sudder Ameen was proceeding to the Bazar, and on attempting to pass, was challenged by one of the Decoits, who desired him to return; and as he did not immediately attend to this order, he received a very severe cut across the nose and both sides of his face. Khyratee Khan, a ferosh, and

Ramnath, a goldsmith, also received wounds on the head; the latter is a youth about sixteen or eighteen years of age, and when first struck by the Decoit, he clung to his leg, when a second Decoit struck him several blows on the head.

The Policemen of the Thana also deposed to their having been wounded by spears; but I strongly suspect the marks shown me immediately after the occurrence, were made purposely to show their presence and activity in the performance of their duty. The wounds were scarcely skin-deep, and I am inclined to think were made with their own swords, as a spear, however slightly struck, would have gone at least half an inch into the body.

All the persons I have questioned on this subject, depose to the gang consisting of fifty or sixty men. I am, however, inclined to think that their number was much greater, as it is usual, I believe, on these occasions, to station several men along the lanes and roads leading from the place they intend to rob, so as to insure a safe retreat; and I would therefore say, that not less than eighty or one hundred men were engaged in this enterprise. On the arrest and confession of one of this gang, it is not improbable that the facts deposed to here as attending this robbery, will very materially differ.

It does not appear that the slightest resistance was offered by the Police Chowkeedars, or any of the inhabitants; all appear to have been seized with a great panic, and retired inside their houses; no one appears to have followed, or attempted to trace the gang on their retreat, nor has any clue been obtained regarding them up to this date. From the accompanying rough sketch, you will observe that the Decoits must have duly matured their plans before carrying them into execution; and they appear to have been well acquainted with the locality of both the Police Thana and the merchant's house they intended to plunder.

(Signed) W. M. RAMSAY,
Assist. Genl. Supt.

CHUPRA, A. G. S. OFFICE, }
26th June, 1839.

In November 1839, Captain Paton, the Assistant Resident at Lucknow, received information of the departure for the eastward of another formidable gang from the Oude forest, and information of the circumstance was given to all Magistrates of the districts through which, it was supposed, they would sweep. On the 10th of February 1840,

they attacked a merchant's house in the town of Beteea, on the Gunduk river, in the Sahran district, wounded nine men, and carried off property to the value of nine thousand rupees. Going on further to the eastward, on the night of the 29th of that month, they attacked another merchant's house, in the town of Nathpoor, on the Hoosee river, in the Purneah district, killed three and wounded fifteen persons, and carried off property valued at four thousand five hundred rupees. Another branch of the same gang went to the south-east, and attacked a merchant's house, in the town of Punchimpoor, in the same month, in the Guya district, and carried off four thousand rupees; and the whole returned to their bivouac in the forest, in the month of March, with the whole of their booty, without having a man hurt or taken. In speaking of these attacks, Mr. Dampier, the Superintendent of Police in Bengal, remarks to me in his letter of the 11th March 1840—"their boldness is inconceivable, as "both the towns, Beteea and Nathpoor, where two of the attacks took "place, are very populous; the houses attacked are those of wealthy "merchants, who have armed retainers, and Police guards are stationed "in the towns."

Ajeet Sing, a leader of one of the Chumbul gangs of Bagree Decoits, gives the following account of an affair in which he and some of his relatives were engaged in the year A. D. 1813:

"The first affair that I have any very distinct recollection of was this: Jean Baptiste, who commanded a force in the service of the Gwalior Chief, Scindhea, wrote a letter to the Karowlee Chief, requesting that he would send him three hundred brave men fit for a bold enterprise; and promised that, if the duty, on which they were to be employed, should be well done, he would get back for that Chief the estate of Subulghur, which Scindhea had taken from him.* The Karowlee Chief assembled three hundred and fifty of our bravest and most experienced men for this work, as he was extremely anxious to recover from Scindhea the Subulghur estate. The men from Karowlee were led by Hunsa Nawula, the son of Kurga Solunky, Gungaram, and Amur Sing, sons of Chooramun Solunky and Bhowanee Bhatti, Suntoka Chowan, and Roree Sing. The men from Alwar were led by Sookdeo and the sons of Bijee Sing, and Newazee Bhurtee. The men from Jypoor were led by Maun Sing, the son of Bhow Sing, and Touja Solunky. These thirteen leaders were sent to Jean Baptiste, with orders to obey his commands implicitly, and with a promise of a handsome reward in the event of success.

* The Subulghur estate yielded four lacs of rupees a year, and was taken from the Karowlee Chief by the troops under Jean Baptiste Filose about a year or two before this transaction.

“ They set out, and in six or seven days reached the Camp of Jean Baptiste, who had with him an army of between forty and fifty thousand men. They had an interview with him, and took up their quarters near his own tents. He ordered a thousand rupees to be given them daily for their subsistence, and they used to get it every morning. At the first interview they told him, that they had constituted Hunsa as their Chief; and learnt that he was in some alarm at the invasion of a bold adventurer from Bundelcund, who had collected around him nearly a hundred thousand horse, consisting of Boondela troops and Pindara hordes, and was then encamped at Khureyra, within the Gwalior territory, and threatened to lay waste the whole country. He told them, that if they would go and put this adventurer to death in his Camp, he would get the Subulghur territory restored to the Karowlee Chief, and make him assign to them valuable estates within that territory in rent-free tenure; and do many other things to make them happy and comfortable. They undertook the enterprise, and the promises on both sides were sworn to solemnly according to their respective religions. His promise was then taken down in writing, and attested by his chief minister, Dewan Sewlal, who pledged himself to see that Jean Baptiste kept to his engagements.

“ They determined to redeem their pledge by attacking the Boondela Chief at night in the midst of his troops, and sent some of their best spies to reconnoitre the disposition of his Camp. They went, some as Brinjaras, some as Mahomedans, and some as Hindoo religious mendicants, and some as pedlars, and after going over the Camp, they used to bring back intelligence of what they had seen. For three months they thus reconnoitred the Camp, without finding what could be considered a fair chance of carrying their designs into execution, for the Chief was found to be always on the alert, and his troops well distributed and watchful at their posts. Two thousand horses were, it was said, always on duty, going the rounds at night: and the tents of the Chief were surrounded by very strong guards, with sentries at every opening. They lost all hope of being able to effect their object by a bold attack; and when this Chief retired from the Gwalior territory, and pitched with his Camp near Saugor, they came to the resolution of descending to the trade of thieves rather than lose him. They instructed their spies accordingly, and they remained in Camp. They soon learnt from them that the Chief had become much enamoured of a dancing girl, belonging to one of the numerous parties of comedians that followed his Camp, and used occasionally to pass the night in her tent, where they might find an opportunity of disposing of him.

“ They were still in the Camp of Jean Baptiste at Chundelea, and on hearing this, fifty of the bravest and cleverest of their party were

selected, and sent on in the disguise of soldiers to this Chief's Camp. They chose a spot in a small thicket, on the bank of a rivulet that flowed through the Camp, and there they concealed themselves. When the Rajah came to spend the night again with the dancing girl, the spies brought intimation to the thicket, and twenty, out of the fifty, armed themselves, and set out for the Camp. Of these, five entered the tent, Hunsa, who determined to do the deed himself, with four chosen men to support him. It was about midnight when they entered, and they found the girl sitting by the bedside fanning the Chief, who lay fast asleep. As soon as the woman saw Hunsa advancing with his dagger to the bed, she threw herself at his feet, and implored him not to kill him, and offered him all the jewels that she and the Chief had, supposing that their object had been merely plunder ; but Hunsa had undertaken the work, and was not to be moved from his purpose by a woman. He terrified her to silence by the threat of instant death, advanced to the bedside, stabbed the Rajah through the heart at one blow, and when he saw that no signs of life remained, retired with his four supporters, and came back to the thicket. All then went into the ruins of an old fort in the jungle some miles distant, where they concealed themselves, and the next morning they saw troops of cavalry galloping in all directions in search of the murderers of their Chief. None of them came to the old fort, and they remained unmolested till the pursuit ceased, when they made the best of their way back to Chundelea, and reported their success to Jean Baptiste. He was greatly delighted, and sent them at once twenty thousand rupees for a feast. To Hunsa, their Chief, he gave a horse worth five thousand rupees, a dress of honor worth one thousand, and a pair of valuable pearl ear-rings to send home to his wife.*

* This is a true story in the main points, Jean Baptiste had, with a force of Seindhea's, nefariously seized upon the territory and fortress of Gurha Kota, which lies between Sangor and the Nerbudda, and ejected the hereditary Chief, Urjun Sing. Leaving troops enough there to secure the conquest, he retired to Chundelea to pursue his kingdom-taking mission in that quarter. Sewial, his Dewan, was left in the civil charge of the districts dependent upon Gurha Kota. Zalim Sing, the cousin of Urjun, a bold, reckless character, who had lost his status by this seizure of Jean Baptiste, determined, if possible, to recover it by a little kingdom-taking expedition of his own, and collecting five or six thousand followers, he devastated Jean Baptiste's new conquests, and surrounded the town of Dewry, which lies forty miles south of Gurha Kota, and then contained a population of twenty thousand persons, with the intention of getting all the wealth of the place to assist in fitting out his troops for the enterprise. In the fight the town took fire and every thing was so dry from the want of rain, that almost every house was reduced to ashes. The people had driven all their cattle, camels and elephants into the town on the approach of the troops, and now afraid or unable to move out, about fifteen thousand persons perished in the flames. At last the licentious troops of Zalim Sing retired, unable to support the horrors of the spectacle before them.

Zalim Sing continued his ravages over the districts under Jean Baptiste, instigated, it is said, by the Sangor Chief, Benaick Row, who at last pretended to become a mediator, and invited Urjun Sing to meet him at Sangor, and try to bring him to terms. Both were addicted to wine and women, and one night while Zalim Sing lay drunk in his tent with a dancing girl, an assassin advanced to the bed, stabbed him to the heart and retired, without hurting the woman, who, on rushing out, saw several men covering the assassin. This is the account given by Urjun Sing of the death of his cousin, in a letter to Mr. Ommansy.

“ They wrote to the Rajah of Karowlee and gave him an account of their success, and suggested that he should lose no time in getting from Scindhea what had been promised by Jean Baptiste, who, about this time, got an order from Gwalior to go and take the fortress and territory of Raghooghur from their Chief. He set out with his troops and made his friends over to the care of Sewlal Dewan, with orders that they should get from him what they required till his return, when he would see that all that had been promised should be performed. They were satisfied, and soon after requested the Dewan to give them a little money to send home to their families. He told them that he had sent an application to his master, and could not act till he got a reply; “ but,” said he, “ if you “ are impatient to bring the negotiations to a close, and will take what “ I hold in my closed hand, as in full of all demands, take it in God’s “ name.” The principal leaders exclaimed: “ who are you that we “ should be satisfied with what you may please to give?—our engagements “ are with your master, and from him we will take what he has promised; “ but in the meantime you can surely make us an advance.” Had they closed with his proposal, he would have cheated them with some small sum and grant of land in full of all demands; and he was, no doubt, instructed by his master, Jean Baptiste, to do so, after he had starved them into agreeing with his proposal of offering them what he held in his closed hand—they were too shrewd to be so taken in—(Jean Baptiste had, to get rid of a formidable enemy, promised to the Karowlee Rajah in the restoration of Subulghur, more than he now thought his master Scindhea would agree to, and he did not know how to get out of the scrape.) He said that he could give nothing in the way of advance till he got orders. “ But,” said he, “ there is a valuable despatch of cloth belonging to the merchants of Chundelea about to start for the Dukhun, you “ can help yourself to that.” They caught eagerly at the proposal, and he gave them the loan of two hundred bullocks to assist their designs. Fifty of their party assumed the disguise of Brinjaraes, and went on eight stages to the town of Sarora, where they attacked the party escorting the cloth when it came up, and plundered them of all they had. The booty was divided on the spot among the leaders, put upon the bullocks, and taken off to their respective homes. After this Sewlal, Jean Baptiste’s minister, recommended them to bring their families from Karowlee to Kalowley in Subulghur. The landholder of that village, Seetaram Brahmin, was at

the Officer in Civil charge of the Sangor district, to whom a copy of Ajeet Sing’s narrative was forwarded; and Urjun Sing adds, that Sewlal, the Dewan, was at the time suspected of having caused the assassination. At Sangor, the burning of Dewry and the subsequent mysterious assassination of Zalim Sing, were frequently mentioned; but he was supposed to have been killed by order of one of his rival Chiefs of Bundelound, or by one of his own discontented soldiers. In his kingdom-taking enterprise, he was only following in the steps of Scindhea himself, and Baptiste knew that, as he rolled on, the pillage of every town would add thousands to his standard. He was killed in Sambut 1879.—A. D. 1813.

that time in Camp with them, and it was at his suggestion the request was made. He was the man sent to induce them to come to Jean Baptiste. He used to get from us large sums of money, and in return render us occasional service at the courts of the different Chiefs, in whose esteem he stood very high.

"The property taken in this affair happened to belong to Dowlut Row Scindhea's own banker, and he got the Chief to issue a peremptory order to Jean Baptiste to trace and seize the plunderers. Baptiste sent orders to the Dewan Sewlal to search for them, and he came off in great agitation to our leaders, and told them, "that if he got into trouble, they "could not hope to escape; but if they could continue to keep him unsuspected, they should find their account in it, that he had suggested the "enterprise for their good alone, and that they were bound in gratitude "to conceal the share he had had in it." It was generally known that our people had committed the robbery; and Hunsa, their chief leader, made no secret of it, as he thought he had nothing to fear from Baptiste, or Scindhea, his master, after the signal service he had rendered them in the assassination of the ambitious Boondela Chief. It was soon reported to Baptiste that we had robbed the banker at the instigation of the Dewan, and he in consequence sent for him and for all the Chiefs of our gangs. At the earnest solicitations of the Dewan Sewlal, Hunsa denied his participation, and declared that they had committed the robbery without his (the Dewan's) knowledge. Baptiste was very angry, put Hunsa and all the leaders in confinement, and sent an order to the Amil (Governor) of Subulghur, to seize and confine all our females and children in the fortress. He got them all seized accordingly, and brought to him from Karowlee.

"Their followers, who had remained at Chundele, on hearing of this, dispersed and returned to their respective homes in Karowlee, Alwar, and Jypoor. They reported to the Karowlee Chief the consummate knavery of the Dewan Sewlal, and he wrote to Jean Baptiste to this effect: "your Dewan instigated my men to plunder the banker, who now, by "persuading them to deny his share in the guilt, has got them confined "by you—good!—You have honorably fulfilled your promises and the "solemn engagements into which you entered—now mark me, if you "have any wish to preserve your own life, you will immediately, on the "receipt of this, send back my people with their wives and children!" Baptiste became much alarmed, immediately released Hunsa Jemadar, with all his friends, gave him a rich dress of honor, and sent the whole home; but he would not release their wives and children, lest they might kill him, out of revenge for violated faith, in the midst of his army, as they had done the Boondela Chief. He kept the women and children for three years confined in the fortress of Subulghur to secure his own life,

till Seetaram, the landholder, was prevailed upon to enter into a solemn engagement that we should not hurt him. Our party had been six months on service with Jean Baptiste, and the captivity of the women and children lasted three years longer. I was then a lad of thirteen or fourteen years of age, and remained in confinement with the women and children. I was with my elder brother Rohun, who soon after died; and I remained with the gang, during the whole expedition in the Baptiste enterprise, till the plunder of the cloth merchants, when I was sent home to my mother with the booty. I was taken with her at Kalowley, and confined at Subulghur.”*

The Chumbul and Rajpootana Decoits of this class had precisely the same superstitions as those of the Oude forest, the same system of internal economy, and the same plan of operations. They considered the great gods of the Hindoo Creed as favoring their undertakings, so long as they were suitably propitiated by offerings to their temples and priests, and the spirits of the most distinguished among their ancestors, as exercising a vicarious authority under these deities, in guiding them to their prey, and warning them from danger. Ajeet Sing says—“ we got forty thousand rupees on this occasion. Out of this, I and Ghazee got fifteen thousand, and Gujraj and Buksheea twenty thousand. Thakoor Inder Sing, the landholder of Ghogul, our patron, got five hundred; and four thousand five hundred were taken to cover the expenses of the road, to offer to the gods who had guided us, and to give in charity to the poor. For offerings to the gods we purchase goats, sweet-cakes, and spirits; and having prepared the feast, we throw a handful of the savory food upon the fire in the name of the gods, who have most assisted us; but of the feast so consecrated, no female but a virgin can partake. The offering is made, through the man who has successfully invoked the god on that particular occasion; and as my god had guided us on this, I was employed to prepare the feast for him, and to throw the offering on the fire. The offering must be taken up before the feast is touched, and put upon the fire, and a little water must be sprinkled upon it. The savory smell of the food as it burns, reaches the nostrils of the god and delights him. On this, as on most occasions, I invoked the spirit of Gunga Sing, my grandfather, and to him I made the offering. I considered him to be the greatest of all my ancestors as a robber, and him I invoked on this trying occasion. He never failed me when I invoked him, and I had the greatest confidence in his aid. The spirits of our ancestors can easily see

* It has been ascertained from Billore that this Decoit took place at Moteea, near Koolam, in the Gwalior territory, in the year 1818, on property in cloth and other things despatched from Chundalee towards Kota, by Narain Dass and Co, merchants of Jhansi. The merchants complained to Jean Baptiste, and recovered most of the booty, and got some of the robbers seized. It was also ascertained by the proprietors of the cloth that Sewal, the Dewan of Jean Baptiste, was an accomplice in the attack.

“whether we shall succeed in what we are about to undertake; and when we are to succeed, they order us on, and when we are not, they make signs to us to desist.”

In speaking of an affair in which one of the party had been wounded; Ajeet Sing says, “Gheesa got a severe cut across the wrist from one of our own swords, in the dark, and in consequence we stopped to take up only two of the money bags. We made a litter with our ropes and cloaks thrown over them, and upon this he was carried off by four of our party; at half a mile distant, the road passed under a large Banyan tree, and as the four men carried him along under the tree, the spirit of the place fell upon him, and the four men who carried him fell down with the shock. They could not raise him again, so much were they frightened, and four other men were obliged to lift him and carry him off. We reached the place where we had left our bullocks, (being in the disguise of Brinjaras,) just as the day began to dawn, and putting the property and our wounded companion upon them, we went on as fast as we could for thirty miles more. At our resting place, we pitched our tents after the manner of Brinjaras, and examined our booty. We found it to consist of a thousand rupees’ worth of gold, silver ornaments, and bullion. We then began to sew up poor Gheesa’s wound, but before we could effect this, he died. We burned his body in the usual mode at that place, and remained there two days to perform the funeral ceremonies. We then gathered up his bleached bones, and took them home to his family, to whom we gave two hundred rupees, being one-fifth of the whole booty. His son, Heeranund, is now one of your approvers. The remaining eight hundred rupees were all taken to refund the outlay for the expedition, and no division took place in consequence. Gheesa’s brother, Rutma, was with us, and presided at the funeral ceremonies; and he afterwards took the bones to the holy stream of the Ganges.”

“If any man, who has been wounded on the field of battle, or in a Decoitee, be taken bleeding to a place haunted by a spirit, the spirit gets very angry, and lays hold of him: he comes upon him in all manner of shapes, sometimes in that of a buffaloe, at others in that of a woman, sometimes in the air above, and sometimes from the ground below; but no one can see him except the wounded person he is angry with, and wants to punish. Upon such a wounded person, we always place a naked sword, or some other sharp steel instrument, as spirits are much afraid of weapons of this kind. If there be any good conjurer at hand to charm the spirits away from the person wounded, he recovers, but nothing else can save him. When the spirit seized Gheesa under the tree, we had unfortunately no conjurer of this kind,

“and he, poor fellow, died in consequence. It was evident that a spirit had got hold of him, for he could not keep his head upright; it always fell down upon his right or left shoulder, as often as we tried to put it right; and he complained much of a pain in the region of the liver. We, therefore, concluded that the spirit had broken his neck, and was consuming his liver.”

On another occasion, when one of the members of his gang, Kunduna, was killed, they carried off the body, and thrust it into a porcupine's hole on the road, after cutting off three of his fingers, to be thrown into the Ganges with due funeral ceremonies. Our reason for cutting off Kunduna's fingers was,” says Ajeet Sing, “that when any of our relations die, we burn them (if we can) on the banks of the Ganges, and throw their ashes into the holy stream. If it so happen that we cannot do this with the whole body, we cut off some of the fingers and burn them, and throw them into the stream in lieu of the whole. We gave Kunduna's fingers to his mother, and she sent them with due offerings and ceremonies to the Ganges by the hands of the family priests. She gave this priest money to purchase a cow, to be presented to the priests in the name of her deceased son, and to distribute in charity to the poor, and to holy men. She got from us, for these purposes, eighty rupees over and above her son's share of the booty. His widow and children continued to receive their usual shares of the booty acquired by the gang, for one year after his death. We always give the widow a share of the booty we acquire as long as she remains among us; but Kunduna's widow left us with her children twelve months after her husband's death, and re-married into another colony.”

Nuseebgir, in a conversation with me on the 28th September 1839, states, “When we speak of seeking omens from our gods, or Davey Deota, we mean the spirits of those of our ancestors who performed great exploits in Decoitee in their day, gained a great name, and established lasting reputations. For instance, Mahajeet my grandfather, and Saheeba, his father, are called gods, and admitted to be so by us all. We have all of us some such gods to be proud of among our ancestors, we propitiate them, and seek for favorable omens from them, before we enter upon any of our enterprises. We sometimes propitiate the Sooruj Deota (sun god) and seek good omens from him. We get two or three goats or rams, and sometimes even ten or eleven, at the place where we determine to take the auspices, and having assembled the principal men of the gang, we put water into the mouth of one of them, and pray to the sun, and to our ancestors, thus—‘Oh thou sun god! and oh all ye other gods! if we are to succeed in the enterprise we are

“about to undertake, we pray you to cause these goats to shake their bodies.’ If they do not shake them after the gods have been thus duly invoked, the enterprise must not be entered upon, and the goats are not sacrificed. We then try the auspices with the wheat ; we have a handful of wheat, a large shell, a brass jug, cloth and frankincense, (gogul) and scented wood (dhoop) to burn. We burn the frankincense and scented wood, and blow the shell ; and taking out a pinch of the grains, put them on the cloth, and count them. If they come up odd, the omen is favorable ; and if even, it is bad. After this, which we call the auspices of the Akut, we take that of the Seearnee, or female jackal. If it calls on the left, it is good—if on the right, it is bad. If the omens turn out favorable in all three trials, then we have no fear whatever ; but if they are favorable in only one trial out of the three, the enterprise must be given up.”

There was the same reciprocity of protection on the one side, and aid in money or service on the other, between the Decoits of this class on the Chumbul, and the local authorities and landholders in their neighbourhood, as between those of the Oude forest and the local officers and authorities in that quarter. In describing an attack made upon the tent of a banker in the camp of the representative of the British Government, at the Court of Bhopaul, in the year A. D. 1826, Ajeet Sing states:—“About sixteen years ago, in the cold season, I set out from Humeerpoor in Indore, with thirty followers, in the disguise of Brinjaras, and proceeded towards the south with two hundred bullocks. We had two Brahmins with us to manage all our affairs with the Custom House and Police Officers along the roads, and to assist us in mending our bags, so as to keep up the disguise. In three months, moving about slowly, waiting for something worth taking, we reached the bank of the Autonee river, three coss from Shoja-wulpoor, in the territory of the Nawab of Bhopaul, and there encamped. We sent on Bheema and Hurchunder to look out for booty, and they came back to us and reported, that the Nawab’s army was encamped not far from the town, and had a banker among them of great wealth. The young Nawab had quarrelled with his mother-in-law, the Regentess of Bhopaul, and there was a small British force with him, with several European gentlemen, trying to effect a reconciliation between the parties. It was the year that Bhurtpoor was taken (1826). About nine o’clock we set out to attack him, leaving the two Brahmins and three of our clan to watch the bullocks, and about midnight we reached the camp. We were challenged as we passed along the sentries, but we told them that we were landholders come to pay our respects to His Highness the Nawab, and they permitted us to pass on. We attacked the banker’s tents,

"robbed him of all the property we could find, and retired with it.* The banker was with the Nawab's ministers, and his tent was pitched in the bazar of the camp, and the only person standing sentry over it was a chow-keedar. As soon as he saw us draw our swords, he made off, calling out as loud as he could 'robbers, robbers.' The people inside were asleep, but as we entered and began to break open the boxes with our axes, they awoke and ran out screaming 'robbers, robbers;' but the people of the camp thought the noise arose from a bazar squabble. We retreated with the booty by the road opposite to that by which we advanced through the camp to the attack, as we concluded that this would be guarded the moment that the alarm should be given. On our way out, we met a party going the rounds, and were obliged suddenly to disperse. Some of our party lost their road in the confusion, and it was late before they reached our bullocks. Soorja *alias* Phool Sing, the son of Jodh Sing, could not find the road at all, and was taken while trying to conceal himself near the camp. We examined the booty on reaching our camp, and found it to consist of about three thousand rupees' worth of property in gold and silver ornaments, rupees of the coinage of Bhopaul, Chitore, Gwalior and Pertabghur, and cloths. We put all these things round our waists, drove the bullocks before us as fast as we could, and reaching home in safety, divided our booty. Soorja *alias* Phool Sing, when taken, had some of the plundered property upon him,

* To Major SLEEMAN,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo, No. 183, giving over to a copy of a deposition made by Ajeet Sing, relative to a Decoitee committed in the year 1826, in the vicinity of Shojawulpoor, and have now the pleasure to forward, for your information, the enclosed proceeding, with annexed papers, from which you will observe, that the attack was made on the Seth attached to the camp of Mr. Maddock, the Political Agent at Bhopaul.

2nd. From the circumstance of the Begum's vakeel, with a number of followers, having been in attendance on the Agent at the time, the informer has probably been led to make the mistake in deposing that the Decoitee was committed on the camp of the late Nawab of Bhopaul.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

W. RIDDELL, Captain.

Bhopaul P. Agent's Office, Sehore,
The 2nd May, 1840.

Proceedings 29th April, from Captain Riddell, Political Agent, Bhopaul, in reply to a letter of the 30th of last month, stating that on the 16th of January 1826, a Decoitee took place on Ramsookh Seth (banker), in the bazar of the camp of Mr. Maddock, the Political Agent at the Court of Bhopaul,—that two men were killed, and the banker himself and three other persons wounded, and property to the value of about two thousand rupees was taken off—that Motee Ram *alias* Thoolka, was the only man arrested; and that his deposition was taken on the following day, the 17th January,—that he mentioned Ajeet Sing and Dana as the leaders of the gang, and that soldiers were sent after them; but owing to the collusion and remissness of the Karowlee authorities, Dana only was taken—that Phool Sing was sentenced to a year's imprisonment on the 3rd November 1831, and released on the expiration of that time.

and on being questioned, stated that Dana the lame, of Karowlee, who was a notorious Decoit leader of those parts, had sent him and his gang upon this enterprise. The Nawab wrote to the Karowlee Rajah, to request that he would secure and send this man to him. He did so : Dana was put into prison at Bhopaul, but he happened to be upon close terms of intimacy with the native agent, who resided at Karowlee on the part of the British representative at the Court of Bhopaul, and through him, his friends spent three or four thousand rupees, and obtained his discharge. On reaching the British Representative at Bhopaul, Dana was confronted with his accuser Seorja, who persisted in declaring that he was the leader of the gang ; but Dana stated that I was the leader, and offered to get me seized, if he were sent to the Jypoor Rajah with a request for aid. He was sent accordingly, but not finding me as he expected, he wrote to Karowlee, to his friend, the agent of the British Representative, to say that I had died of the cholera morbus, which was then raging. The Jypoor Rajah was in consequence requested to send Dana to Karowlee, and on his arrival, the British Representative's agent wrote to his master to say, that he, Dana, was a most respectable and inoffensive landholder, and had been wantonly seized and subjected to indignities, and soon got an order to see that he was released. As some compensation for the money he had got from Dana's friends, he persuaded the minister of Karowlee and his master the Rajah, to give Dana, in rent-free tenure, the village of Pisola Pisollee, worth one hundred rupees a year, saying that he deserved it from them after having been subjected to so much indignity. Dana used to give the Rajah and his minister the Dhawa, (that is the husband of the woman who had nursed the Rajah in his infancy) many thousand rupees a year in presents, out of the booty his gang used to bring home from their expeditions, and he was now much pleased to think that he and the British Representative's agent had got him out of the scrape so well, for when he sent Dana to Bhopaul, he was much afraid that Dana would disclose and get him into trouble. No one of our party was wounded in this affair, nor was any one that I know of, on the part of the banker. This Dana is now an officer in the Agra Police, and on intimate terms with the Cotwal of the city, and he does a good deal to screen his friends who are still at large."

These robbers always place themselves under the special protection and guidance of some tutelary deity, for the particular enterprise on which they are about to enter; and they propitiate him by the usual sacrifices, offerings and prayers. Having projected an expedition, they take the auspices in the name of the deity they have chosen for the occasion; and when they have satisfied themselves from the omens that he is willing to guide them in it, they sacrifice again, and make such other offerings as seem to them most likely to please him and secure his

good offices. Some colonies prefer one of the Hindoo deities, and some another; but all occasionally prefer moving under the immediate auspices of a little family deity of their own. This is the spirit of one of their ancestors, who mixes himself up with all the little worldly affairs of his descendants and their associates, and works evil or good for them, just as they may or may not give him the usual dose of flattery, offerings and sacrifices, that all such supernatural agents are supposed to require, at the hands of those mortals, who expect them either to abstain from injuries, or to confer benefits. Their mode of ascertaining which of their ancestors interests himself most in their affairs, is commonly this—whenever a person in a fever, or an epileptic fit, talks incoherently, the spirit of one or other of his ancestors is supposed to be upon him. If there be any doubt upon the point as to whose spirit it is, they throw down some grains of wheat or coloured glass beads, a pinch at a time, taking the name of the ancestor they suppose the most likely to be at work, and calling odd or even as they please. If the number proves to be as they call it, several times following, while that name is repeated, they feel secure of their family god, and proceed at once to sacrifice a goat or something else in his name, for gods, like men, must, they think, have something to eat and drink. These gods do not actually take a knife and fork at table, or, like Banquo's ghost, "push men from their stools;" but they fill the air above, and the fragrance of every savory dish is supposed to get into their nostrils and delight them, at the same time that the guests all sing their praises, and thank them for the promise of protection and guidance which they have condescended to give in the omens. The person supposed to be possessed, frequently mentions himself the name of some renowned ancestor of whom he is dreaming; and talks of the mischief he has done and will still do, unless a shrine be dedicated, or suitable offerings made to him, and speaking in the first person, says, "I am so and so, have done so and so, and will still do so and so, if so and so is not done for me." Attention watches his lips, and conviction closes his periods; and on such occasions, no farther enquiry is made as to the real character of the spirit by whom the diseased person is animated. If a favorable change take place in the state of the sufferer during the sacrifice, or immediately after, not the slightest doubt remains as to the ancestor to whom the spirit belongs; and he is henceforward held to be one of their tutelary gods, and is feasted and flattered in the usual manner, that he may always be ready to aid them in their enterprises.

In all these cases, it is not the sick person who speaks or is supposed to speak, but the spirit who possesses him, and makes what use he pleases of his tongue. Living as they commonly do in unhealthy jungles, there is never any want of persons to talk incoherently under

the influence of fever, and functional derangements of the womb, spleen, liver, and brain, and to supply the colonies with tutelary gods. Almost all other classes of robbers in India provide themselves with supernatural guides in a similar manner ; but it is not all that can form their Pantheons out of their own family circles alone. The ancestors, who become gods, are those who have most signalled themselves as robbers in the sublunary state, who have led their gangs in the most daring and profitable enterprises, and have been of the greatest renown in their day. These are the men whose spirits are most likely to take a lively interest in the proceedings of their descendants, and to aid them in their difficulties as long as they follow the same honorable, or, as they call it, "*imperial trade*," and pay them due honors ; their names are cited with admiration by the colonists in general, and recollected with pride by their descendants ; and it is not surprising that they should become prominent characters in the feverish dreams of the sick. If any member of the great family of Bowries, to which Budhuks, Bagries, Bagooras, Secar Marwars, and others belong, see any one of these renowned ancestors frequently in his dreams, he will take the visits as real, and sacrifice to the shade of the visitor ; and if he be a man of any influence, he will get the colony to do the same, in order to secure the good offices of their honored guests. Among Roman Catholics, when young persons frequently dream about their departed mothers or fathers, they are commonly taken to be real visitors, and the priests get a sum of money to provide a mass, and lay the perturbed spirits to rest. Among the Gonds of the woods and forests of Central India, the spirits of deceased parents are propitiated immediately after death, by the sacrifice of pigs or fowls, that they may not enter the service of the enemies of the family, and bring down misfortunes upon them. The spirit of the person killed by a tiger, is supposed, not only by the Gonds, but by the mass of the people, and even by the greater part of the educated classes, to ride upon the head of the monster, direct him to his prey, and warn him from danger.

These household deities or guardian spirits of the Budhuk Decoits, correspond precisely with the "*lares familiares*" of the old Romans, who considered them to be the sons of virtuous men, who were permitted, as a reward for their good conduct in this life, to watch over the lives and fortunes of their descendants. This agency of departed spirits was recognised by Thales, Pythagoras, and many others of the principal philosophers of ancient Greece. Xenophon makes his hero "*Cyrus*" say—"If the souls of departed worthies did not watch over and guard their surviving fame, the renown of their illustrious actions would soon be worn out of the memory of man." These Budhuk Decoits are really as proud of their actions as *Cyrus* was of his ; and

they believe that they and their ancestors have been following the trade of heroes, kings and princes; and in their moments of *abandonment*, I have often heard them say—"Our's has been a 'Padshahee kām'—an imperial trade—we have attacked and seized boldly the thousands and hundreds of thousands, that we have freely and nobly spent; we have been all our lives wallowing in wealth and basking in freedom, and find it hard to manage with a few copper pice a day we get from you."

It is really difficult in India to draw ethically the line that shall separate the enterprises of the prince, at the head of his army, going out on his "kingdom-taking" expedition, from those of the Decoit leader, at the head of his gang, going out on his treasure-taking enterprises. Both take the auspices in due form before they set out, after the close of the rainy season, to ascertain whether their deities approve or not of their undertakings; and when they find the omens favorable, the one thinks his enterprise as pleasing to the deity as the other; both go to rob, the one a capital and a prince, after devastating a whole country and indiscriminately murdering the innocent and unoffending inhabitants; the other a Government treasury, or a rich merchant's store-rooms; both are idolized by their followers, who never trouble their consciences with inconvenient questions about the justice or the injustice of the attack, as long as the expediency is made clear to them, and they have their purses filled, and their self-love flattered. Both are sure of the love and esteem of the circles in which they move, as long as success attends their enterprises. When Bukshee returned with his gang, after the attack upon the Ex-Peshwa's treasury, "The women of the colony," says Odda, "came out some distance, as usual, to welcome us, singing and playing upon various instruments of music; and we gave them fifteen of the Peshwa's gold mohurs, and twenty of his rupees to purchase sweetmeats." Alexander, Jungez Khan, Tymour, Nadir Shah, the Peshwa himself, Scindhea, Holcar, Ameer Khan, and their armies, were all in reality as much robbers, in deed and in motive as Bukshee and his gang from the Oude forest; they all drove an imperial trade, and it is not surprising that amidst such a medley of imperial traders as India has presented through the whole period of its history, the Budhuk leaders should aspire to the title.

"The absence of hope," says an Arabian philosopher, "is the repose of the mind." Take away all hope of attaining or enjoying an object, and the imagination ceases to dwell upon it—it ceases to be an object of desire, and the mind sinks into a state of calm acquiescence, and looks around for other objects of pursuit. It is by taking from the Native Chiefs of India, who had been so long accustomed to this imperial trade, the hope of enriching and aggrandising themselves by depreda-

tions upon their neighbours, that the British supremacy has become the great benefactor of its immense population. The peace and security of surrounding countries were continually disturbed by the exclusive military spirit produced, from time to time, by the predatory ability, energy, and ambition of individual Chiefs, and fostered by the facility, in the absence of any controlling paramount power, with which he collected and organized gangs, and seized and devastated the countries around him. The British Government has, by slow degrees, become that paramount power. Under the consciousness of its superior military organization, the imaginations of the Native Chiefs cease to dwell upon the images of foreign conquests, and "the pomp and circumstance of glorious war;" and, under the assurance of its justice and forbearance, they will, by degrees, seek the love of their people, by cultivating among them the arts of peace, and forming works of ornament and utility, instead of that of their disorderly retainers in the promise of pillage and extension of dominion: that is, if we do not, by intermeddling in their internal administration and domestic affairs, (as we are too prone to do), deprive them of all pride and pleasure in governing well.

The evil of this "imperial trade" of invading the dominions of others, was not so much in the carnage and devastations committed by the invading armies, as in the consequences of destroying existing governments, without substituting others in their places, and leaving the invaded countries a prey to the anarchy, which inevitably followed. In the disorders which attended and followed such invasions, hundreds became the leaders of reckless bands of robbers, and inspired with the hope of rising by their means to "principalities and powers," and ages passed, before one was found with the energy and ability required to re-organise an efficient government, and reduce the unquiet spirits to the necessity of co-operating in the restoration of order and peace. The British Government has avoided this great evil, by either upholding and supporting, in the exercise of its functions, the government of the country it conquered, or immediately substituting its own; and in either case, the mass of the people and the country have escaped the terrible consequences of the success of less civilized conquerors.

If we could apply the maxim of the Arabian philosopher to the leaders of banditti, as well as we have applied it to the Native Chiefs, who commanded predatory armies, we should soon convert "their swords into ploughshares", by reducing their minds to that state of repose, which arises from the absence of all hope of being any longer able to indulge in their favourite sporting propensities. If we could once impress upon the minds of common robbers the assurance, that arrest, conviction, and punishment, would inevitably follow crime, their imagi-

nations would cease to dwell, as they now do, upon the property of others, and the caresses and distinctions which follow their successful enterprises. They were numerous, and our districts, as well as those of Native Chiefs, were over-run by gangs of robbers and assassins, because the chances were ten to one against arrest after crime, and again ten to one against conviction after arrest ; and consequently one hundred to one against final punishment. The prosecutors and their witnesses, on the contrary, were sure of punishment. Dragged through Court after Court, and Sessions after Sessions, often with indignities that made them the sport of the robber and the assassin themselves, they commonly thought themselves supremely blessed if suffered by the Police to abstain from prosecution, though they had lost all their property, been themselves wounded, and had some dear relatives killed in the attack. There are few in India who have not, some time or other, heard those whose dearest relatives have been killed, and their all taken from them, in an attack by a band of Decoits, who have been arrested, cry bitterly and say, that their first losses and sufferings had been great, but not so great as those which were inflicted upon them, as they were thus dragged from Court to Court, and Sessions to Sessions, at seasons when the subsistence of their families for the whole year depended upon their uninterrupted labours for a month or two during the season of tillage.

Much has no doubt been done to remedy this intolerable evil, under which the people of our dominions formerly suffered so much, by that great measure of the much-abused Lord William Bentinck, which substituted Sessions Judges in every district for the Courts of Circuit over many. Every district now enjoys the great advantage of a Sessions Judge ; but much remains still to be done, before we shall take from the robbers the hope, and from the prosecutors and witnesses the fear, which encourages the growth of gang robbers of all descriptions in India. It was a common practice, when the Magistrate issued his order to have the witnesses for the prosecution sent in, for the Thanadar or other Police officer to have them all seized as so many felons, and penned together at his Thana like so many sheep in a fold, till the whole were ready ; and then to *chalan*, or send them off, using the same term in his report, as he uses when sending in a batch of felons. He began his seizures in the evening, when men usually returned home from the labours of the day ; and the witnesses all remained penned up till the time for starting in the morning, if not longer. Rich bankers, wealthy merchants, great landholders, sweepers, scavengers, all crammed together, until the wealthy and respectable purchased their freedom for a "consideration." If the Thanadar was asked why he treated witnesses in this manner, he replied, that the men required would make off as soon as they knew that they were to be summoned to the Court, unless seized and confined by

the Police ; and that it was impossible to secure their attendance with less rigour than he exercised. If the robbers escaped conviction, which they were very likely to do, in spite of all the proof available, they were almost sure to wreak their vengeance upon the witnesses, by murdering them, or some members of their families, and robbing and burning down their houses, to deter others from presuming to appear against them in Court. This they could easily do, where witnesses live in such a defenceless state, as the inhabitants of towns and villages generally do in India.

Sportsmen in India know that herdsmen and others, who live in the jungles for the whole or certain seasons of the year, will not point out to them the lairs of tigers, which they have seen, unless they know them to be well provided with arms and elephants, and sure marksmen, so that the animal shall have no chance of escape, under the persuasion, that, if they do escape, he will wreak his vengeance upon them for doing so. This feeling pervades the people, who live in or frequent the jungles in all parts of India that I have seen ; and, I believe, the disinclination, on the part of witnesses, to give evidence in our Courts against atrocious offenders from the same apprehension, pervades the people all over India, where the defenceless state of the people renders the escape of felons, from flaws in the indictment, far more terrible than in England and other countries, where person and property are more secure.

CHAPTER VIII.

In the latter end of 1838, the Governor General, Lord Auckland, who was at Simla, and retained in his own hands the government of the N. W. Provinces, determined to unite the office of Commissioner for the suppression of Decoitee to that of the General Superintendent of measures for the suppression of Thuggee throughout India, which had been found very efficient and successful; and I received charge of the office, on the 12th of February 1839, from Mr. Hugh Fraser, of the Bengal Civil Service. I had become aware, that the Budhuk fraternity was the most formidable class of professional gang robbers in all India, and that their colonies north of the river Jumna, were located chiefly in the forest which bordered the Oude dominion to the north, and the Nepaul Hills to the south, the districts of Rohilcund and those of Aleegur, Mozuffernuggur and Saharunpoor in the Dooab, or delta of the rivers Ganges and Jumna; and moved by head quarters from Jubulpoor on the Nurbudda, to Mooradabad in Rohilcund, which I considered to be the central point, from which I could best superintend the operations of my Assistants in pursuit of these gangs.

These Assistants were stationed at the places noted in the margin,*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">* 1. Captain Reynolds and Lieut. Charles Brown at Jubulpore.2. Captain W. M. Ramsay at Chupra.3. Captain J. Graham at Agra.4. Captain Whiteford at Moorshedabad.5. Lieutenant Miles at Meerut.6. Lieutenant Birch at Ajmere.7. Captain Paton at Lucknow.8. Captain Sleeman at Goruckpoor.9. Captain Riddell at Indore. |
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and ready to move to any point within their respective circles. They were all invested with the powers of Joint Magistrates within the districts in which they resided, and had concurrent jurisdiction within all the other districts comprised within their respective divisions. In Native

States, they acted under the control of the European political functionaries accredited at the different Native Courts, in the same manner as they acted under that of the judicial authorities in the districts of our own provinces. Their means were such as they had heretofore employed exclusively in the suppression of the Thug associations, with some small addition to their office establishments for the conduct of the new duties.

My predecessor had been occupied in pursuit of the local and occasional Decoits, and had acquired and recorded no information regarding

the great professional and hereditary classes. He had arrested two Budhuks on the estate of the Rajah of Kottar, in the Shahjehanpore district, and two more in that of Budown, in Rohilcund; but he had elicited from them no information of any value. There was no proof forthcoming against them, of any specific offence; and, though they were aware that they were known to be robbers by profession, they apprehended nothing more than a limited confinement, on a requisition of security for their future good behaviour, which they would find no difficulty whatever in obtaining from the Rajah of Kottar, or the many other influential landholders, who found them such valuable tenants, where the Police happened to be lax, or purchased over by the gang to its interest, as it very frequently was, in our territories as well as in those of Native Chiefs. Ghazee was one of the Budhuks he had captured; and Sorjuna, the brother of his wife, left his colony in the Oude Turae, and went to Mr Fraser, at Delhi, in the latter end of 1838, in consequence of a dispute with his associates. He intended avenging himself upon them by a full disclosure, and all the aid he could give against them. Finding, however, that his sister's husband, Ghazee, and the rest had yet disclosed nothing, and that the Commissioner was too much occupied at that time to attend to him, he returned to his friends in the Oude forest to wait a more favorable opportunity. They suspected his designs, and had become aware of his visit to Mr. Fraser, and on his return, Toolsee, one of the leaders of his gang, stabbed him through the side with a knife, while another cut him down with his sword, and he died on the spot.

Mota Jemadarnee, the sister of Chunda, a leader already named, was with Mr. Fraser on the pretence of giving him information; but she gave him less regarding the movements of her friends, than she gave them regarding those of the Commissioner and his establishments. In transferring her services to me, Mr. Fraser said, that he believed no person in India could give more of the information we required than she could; but he had been able to elicit little of it. It was evident that a different course was necessary, and the means were available. All my Assistants were instructed to collect as many as they could of the Budhuk Decoits confined under sentence, or under a requisition of security, in the different Jails throughout the country, as well in those of Native Chiefs, as in our own; and the requisite authority was obtained from our own Government and from the Native sovereigns. Captain Paton got no less than fifty from the Lucknow Jail; Captain Ramsay got many of Miterban Sing's gang from the different Jails around him; Captain Graham got some from Gwalior, and our own Jails; Captain Riddell got some from Indore and Bhopaul; and the other officers all got some. All were invited to record narratives of their lives, and the names of all

who had been associated with them in the different Decoities recorded in their narratives, and of all the prominent characters of the fraternity known to them. In the mean time all the means at their disposal were employed in pursuit of those still at large and at their trade, and we had soon a vast fund of information recorded. From the narratives, a general register was formed of all the Budhuk Decoits still at large, in all parts of India, with the Decoities in which each of them was declared to have been engaged, and the names of those, who, at all the different places, had deposed to them, without the possibility of collusion, or communication with each other.

I succeeded in arresting a great many in the different parts of the field, which I had reserved to myself, comprising all Rohilcund, and the Delta between the Ganges and Jumna ; and of all, who seemed disposed to give me useful information, I formed a small colony near my residence at Moradabad, called " Budukpoora." Here they were comfortably lodged with their wives and families, whom I invited to reside with them. They had a little independent society of their own, and were no longer subject to the taunts and threats of their friends, assured that they would be all well fed, clothed, and protected, as long as they told me the whole truth that I wished to elicit from them, and nothing but the truth. They soon found that the depositions taken by the other officers of the department at distant points, enabled me to detect false statements ; and that their status with me in the new colony depended upon their disclosing truly all they knew ; and every one was anxious to attain the highest status. Their narratives, taken down by me, were sent not only to the different officers under me to be collated with those taken down by them in regard to the Decoities committed, and the persons by whom they were perpetrated, and the relationship and connection by marriage between the leaders and members of the different gangs ; but to the Magistrates and other local authorities in the districts, where the Decoities were stated to have taken place, to ascertain whether they had really taken place as described or not.

Some of these narratives described a life of crime, extending to thirty, forty, and even fifty years, after the deponents had attained the age, when youth are permitted to go out with a gang on Decoitee, or from eighteen to twenty years. Thugs were in the habit of taking out their sons and relations at a much earlier age, to get a share of the booty ; and this they could do with safety, as their crimes were concealed with the burial of their victims, and they did not require the same maturity of strength and courage in all the members of their gangs ; but the Budhuks committed their attacks with open violence as soon as night set in, and had to retire with their booty, and place the greatest

possible distance between themselves, and the place attacked before they rested. They walked as fast as they could the whole night, and the greater part of the next day, before they ventured to rest, or to examine their spoil, dividing it according to the weight and strength of the different members, so that the movements might be as rapid as possible. They had often to seize their spoil from strong, brave, and well armed guards, and to enter large towns and scale high walls, and required that every one should be strong, brave, and well trained to act his part in the post assigned to him, so that they might, like good soldiers, feel perfect confidence in each other's support, under all circumstances of difficulty and danger. If one were left behind in their retreat, he might be seized, and frightened into a confession, dangerous to the safety of all, and they could not venture to take with them any but such as were strong and well trained to move rapidly long journeys of from thirty to forty miles, without halting for rest or refreshment.

The precision with which the oldest men recorded the Decoities, at which they had assisted during their whole lives, was often wonderful. Lucka, one of the leaders of the Oude Turae gangs, arrested by me in Rohilcund, described forty-nine Decoities, at which he had been present during his career of twenty-five years. The local authorities, to whom I sent his narrative, mentioned forty-one as having been perpetrated precisely as he described them, though some of them took place near Calcutta, some four or five hundred miles from the bivouac in the Oude forest, from which the gang had set out ; but eight of these Decoities were declared by the Magistrates and other local authorities, never to have taken place at all. After repeated references, with fuller information, some of the robberies were stated to have taken place, though the records of the case had been lost in the Magistrates' offices, or they had never been before reported to the authorities, the Police having yielded to the solicitations of the persons robbed, and withheld their report. Five were still unaccounted for, and Lucka was sent to the places to point out the very houses attacked, when the parties robbed, acknowledged the truth of his statement, and explained how the local authorities had been kept in ignorance of the losses they had sustained in lives and property. Every Decoitee, described by him in his narrative, was at last found to have taken place precisely as he had described it ; and knowing the rigid test to which these narratives would be subjected, and how much the status of each narrator, with me and my co-adjutors in the cause, depended the truth, every one was anxious to make his as accurate as possible. Ramjeet, a leader of the Chumbul colonies, described thirty-eight Decoities, at which he had assisted in the course of twenty-seven years, and thirty-four were found, on a reference to local authorities, to have taken place as he described them. Ajeet Sing, a leader of the Chumbul colonies, described

twenty-three committed by him in the course of his career of twenty-two years, and eighteen were found to have taken place as described by him. Buldeo, a leader of the Oude forest gangs, mentioned thirty-nine at which he had assisted in the course of thirty-three years, and twenty-six were in the same manner found to have really taken place as described. I was unable to send any other of the narrators to the different scenes of the De-coities mentioned in their narratives over so vast a field, embracing all the countries between the rivers Jumna, Nerbudda, and Indus, the Himmaleh Mountains, or, I believe, the whole would have been verified as those of Lucka were.

All the other narratives were subjected to the same scrutiny, and found to be, for the most part, equally accurate ; but in all it was found, that the narratives of the leaders of gangs were much more accurate than those of their followers, or subordinate members of gangs, who seemed to have less regard for their character and status in their new vocation. The same steadiness of character, which had raised men to the rank of leaders of gangs, now rendered them the safest guides in their new character of assistants in the suppression of their system, when they were satisfied that Government had resolved to sustain the attack and finally put down the system ; and that they would be protected, fed and clothed, and have their families with them as long as they continued to record all they knew about their associates in crime, and accused no innocent person. I have never known a European sportsman narrate more accurately the events of a sporting excursion in India, in which he felt the deepest interest, with more accuracy and minuteness, than the oldest of these men have narrated to me those of Decoitee expeditions, in which they had been engaged in their youth. This arises from the religious ceremonies necessary before enterprizes are entered upon—the preparations required to fix upon a proper place for attack, and to estimate the obstacles to be surmounted, and to insure success—the disguises assumed, and varying with the occasions—the separation and re-union of parties in the advance and retreat, to conceal their character—the systematic distribution of parties to cover and conduct the attack, and protect the retreat—the constant talk about the parts each had to sustain, and the manner in which it had been sustained, and about the amount and division of the spoil—all tending to impress the events of an expedition strongly on the mind, whilst intermarriage exclusively among themselves, tends to give to every man a knowledge of the character and relationship not only of the members of his own gang, but of those of the whole fraternity. Every Budhuk Decoit can, at the instant, tell one the “gote,” or tribe, to which any other member of his gang, or colony, belongs, the family into which he has married, and the name and character of all his relatives and connexions by marriage. I have stated that no member of one gotte, or tribe, can be united in marriage to another of

the same gote, among the Budhuk fraternity, or among any other fraternity of Hindoos ; they must seek wives or husbands in some other gote, or have none at all. They spend large sums in their marriage ceremonies, which are generally undertaken after successful expeditions ; and many colonies are commonly invited to unite and assist at the marriage of a son or daughter of a leader, while the whole of the colony are invariably invited to assist at that of a son or daughter of the humblest of the members.*

While engaged in these enquiries, and in recording the results, a respectable looking woman was one morning introduced to me by her cousin, one of the principal members of my little Budhuk community, as the wife of a noted leader of the gangs, by name Ghureeba, the son of Nuseeba, who had, she said, been long in the Jubulpore Jail, under the assumed name of Motec, and would, she thought, be glad to assist me if invited to Moradabad. This man was one of the principal leaders of the gang, which caught the treasure escort in the net, (as already described) in the Goruckpoor district, and I was not aware that I had ever seen him. I now for the first time heard, that he had been for some years in the Jubulpore Jail. He had been arrested in 1834, by the Magistrate of Jounpoor, at the head of a gang of seventeen persons on their return to the Oude forest with a portion of the booty acquired in an expedition to the eastward ; and the whole were made over to a party of mine, then in the district in search of Thugs, to be taken to Jubulpore, on strong suspicion of their being of that class. It was manifest that they had been engaged in gang robbery, and several of the Thug approvers deposed to having met them while out on their expeditions, and to having known them to be gang robbers, though of what class they could never discover. The leader, under the assumed name of Motee, remained doggedly silent, in spite of all efforts on my part, and that of Captain Charles Brown, to induce him to tell us who and what he really was ; but during some misunderstandings among them, two of his followers deposed to their having been engaged in gang robbery, and all associated together as robbers, though of what class they would not say, nor would they depose to any particular Decoitee, which could be verified by a reference to local authorities. There was, however, abundance of evidence to justify the Sessions Judge, before whom they were committed, in considering them as gang robbers by profession, and passing an order for their confinement in the Jubulpore Jail, on a requisition of security for their future good behaviour, and this order was passed, and repeated

* I had made out genealogical tables of all the principal Thug families throughout India. They were all numbered, and the number of the table to which he belonged was inserted opposite the name of every member in the General Register of Thugs, so that his relationship to others could be at once discovered by a reference to this table. This has not been done with the Decoit families.

at the prescribed intervals, as the required security could never be produced.

Applications were made for Motee's release to the Magistrate of the Barielly district, by his father, Nuseeba, who was stated to have rendered him good service in his Police duties ; but as the Magistrate could urge nothing in favor of Motee's character, it was not thought safe to release him. He and his party were now sent for to Moradabad, and finding, that so many of their nearest relations had told me all they knew, and recorded narratives of their lives and adventures, they all did the same, and added greatly to my stock of information. It was then that Motee, *alias* Ghureeba, first told me of his having contrived the capture of the Goruckpoor treasure party in the net ; and accompanied Moneea, the widow of Miterban, in the enterprize against the treasure on its way to the capital of Nipaul. About the same time Lucka was one day brought into my Court, dressed out as one of the monastic order of Byragies, with ashes over his body, and a house of peacock's feathers on his back. He had been arrested by one of my parties, in the Philibeet district, near the Oude forest, at the suggestion of one of the Budhuk approvers, who did not know him personally ; but observed a degree of inquietude in his eye and movements, that indicated he could not be what he pretended. He exclaimed loudly, when brought before me, of the injustice of subjecting persons of his high sanctity of character, to the degradation of arrest and search. His face was covered with ashes, but his voice betrayed him. Ghureeba walked up to him, and putting his hand upon his shoulder, and looking in his face with a smile, said " Lucka, my old friend, these tricks won't serve us any longer, they have told the sahib all about it, and our only chance now is in making a clean breast of it." Lucka looked for a short time to the right and to the left, and finding many of his relations and old friends all smiling at his disguise, he quietly disencumbered himself of his house of peacock's feathers, and consented to become one of the new community. He had been over to a colony, on the Chumbul, to marry one of his daughters ; and was now on his way back to the Oude forest, with his wife and children, moving along in the same direction, but at a little distance before or behind, so as to appear to be altogether unconnected with him. They were sent for, and the whole were comfortably lodged in Budukpoora ; and he became one of the most trustworthy men of his class, that I have ever had to deal with. He and Ghureeba are now officers in the Police, and neither of them has been found to betray, or abuse his trust in any situation.

Ajeet Sing was sent to me from Agra, by order of the Supreme Court of the N. W. Provinces, or Sudder Nizamut Adawlut, by whom he had been acquitted of the specific Decoitee, on which he had been

committed for trial before them. On the 30th of October, a gang of sixty Budhuk Decoits, from the colonies, on the Chumbul, under Ramjeet, the son of Dana, committed a daring Decoitee on a wealthy iron-monger's shop, in the town of Agra, near the residence of the then Governor, Sir Charles Metcalfe, and carried off property to the value of about six thousand rupees. The Magistrate, Mr. Mansell, was naturally exceedingly anxious to trace the perpetrators ; and Dana, who was then employed in the Agra Police, under the Kotwal, Shekh Gholam Hoseyn, as an intelligencer upon a salary of eight rupees a month, took advantage of the opportunity to avenge himself on Ajeet Sing for former supposed wrongs. He told the Kotwal, that this Decoitee had been committed by Ajeet Sing's gang ; and Ajeet Sing himself, with nineteen of his followers, were, in consequence, arrested in the Purguna of Hindone, by a detachment of horse sent in pursuit of them by Mr. Mansell. The evidence against them arraigned by the Kotwal seemed all very clear. He thought that his position depended upon their conviction, since the Magistrate was so anxious to discover the real perpetrators of this daring outrage, committed under the very eyes of the Lieutenant Governor, and in concert with Dana, and his son, Ramjeet, who had been the leader of the gang in this affair, he did his best to make the evidence appear conclusive against Ajeet Sing and his gang. The case was referred by the Agra Sessions Judge for final orders to the Supreme Court at Allahabad ; and Ajeet Sing sent the cleverest of his wives, with an attorney, an old friend of his from Jypoor, to have the discrepancies in this evidence pointed out. Discrepancies there certainly were, but what she and the attorney did to have them pointed out, I know not. Certain it is, that the evidence against her husband and his followers, did not appear satisfactory, and they were all acquitted ; but as it was clear that they were all Decoits by profession, the Court ordered that they should be sent to me at Moradabad ; as I was said to have collected evidence sufficient to convict them of other offences, or, at least, to justify their detention on the requisition of security.

Ajeet Sing arrived at Moradabad in June 1839, and I had many conversations with him and his followers ; but could not prevail upon him to disclose any thing, as he saw that I had with me but few of the Chumbul Decoits, and such as I had, had never taken any prominent part in their expeditions, or been engaged with him in any enterprize. At last, I was obliged to order his committal as a Decoit leader by profession, with a view to his detention in Jail, on a requisition of security, as it was manifest, that he was not a man, who could be released with safety. He had abundance of money to purchase friends, and was notoriously, after Gujraj, the most daring and able leader of all the Bagree, *alias* Budhuk, Decoit gangs, west of the Jumna. He had gone off two stages towards

Agra, when he requested the officer of the guard to take him back to me, that he might make a clean breast of it at once. The officer applied to me for orders, and he was told to bring him back. He then told me in a private conversation, that, if I would put my right hand in his, and promise him protection, and such consideration as I thought compatible with his safe keeping, he would tell me all that he knew, and serve me faithfully. I did so, and he then recorded a narrative of his life, which has since been printed, and often quoted in these pages. It is, I believe, a faithful record of his recollections, with one exception, in which he mentions having been present at the Decoitee committed on a party of merchants at Ameergur, in Rajpootana. He was not present in that affair, as he afterwards acknowledged, but some of his followers were, and he shared in the booty. His description of the affair is a correct one, but he got it from those of his followers, who were really present.

I fulfilled my engagements to him, as he fulfilled all his pledges to me, and when he had done all the service I required of him in the pursuit of his associates on the Chumbul, I placed him in the Banda Military Police Battalion, commanded by Major Ferris. He was employed during the Bundelcund insurrection under Captain Parker, and by his gallantry and good conduct rose to the rank of a Tomandar, or Commander of a Company, and was killed in an attempt to arrest the rebel Rajah of Jytpoor, in the month of April 1844. I have seldom seen a man, whom I would rather have with me in scenes of peril and difficulty. On one occasion he was sent with a squadron, under Captain Studdy, of the 8th Light Cavalry, to arrest the chief leader of the insurgents in Bundelcund, named Kumode Sing, the uncle of the rebel Rajah of Jytpoor; Kumode Sing had been protected by the Rajah of Bijawur, with whom he was closely connected by marriage, and had been traced by Ajeet Sing to a small village, where the Bijawur Rajah's wife was engaged in the ceremonies of a marriage, at which Kumode Sing and his wife were to assist. The Squadron left the Nowgong Cantonments in the evening, and marching all night, reached the village before daybreak in the morning, and surrounded the house in which all the marriage party were sleeping. Kumode Sing, however, contrived to escape out of a back door, and when Captain Studdy and the other European officers with him entered the house, they found nothing but women, with their robes thrown over their heads to hide their faces.

Captain Studdy became very angry with Ajeet Sing, and told him that he deserved to be punished for having brought so large a body of troops such a distance, on false information. Seeing this, the Bijawur Rajah's people became very clamorous for his punishment, declaring that the Rajah's family could never recover from the indignity offered to his

wife by this outrageous intrusion upon her privacy, for she was one of the ladies present and covered with her robe. Ajeet bore all the anger and reproach heaped upon him without speaking, while he fixed his keen eye upon all the females, one after the other. At last, when Captain Studdy and the other officers were about to leave the room, indignant at having been brought so far on so useless an errand, Ajeet Sing threw his turban at his feet and implored him to take with him the woman he should point out, and save him from disgrace and punishment. He then walked up to one of the females, and pointed her out to Captain Studdy, and said, "If this is not the wife of the rebel Kumode Sing, I will forfeit not only my commission but my life". Ajeet Sing's reputation for sagacity was so great, and he appeared so earnest and convinced that he was right, that Captain Studdy ordered the lady to enter a litter prepared for her, and accompany him to the Cantonments, which she did, taking her daughter with her. She was in reality the person Ajeet Sing had taken her for, and she and her daughter were treated with so much kindness and consideration, that she soon after prevailed upon her husband to surrender. How he had discovered her to be the wife of the insurgent leader seemed a mystery to all present, and all that Ajeet Sing could say, was that she seemed to manifest more anxiety than any other to escape observation. Such is the sagacity of men, naturally quick, trained up in such scenes of strife and peril. The Rajah of Bijawur, instead of complaining, acknowledged the indiscretion of his wife, and apologized for it; and when Kumode Sing surrendered, he, at my request, provided for him and his family. But I must mention, that these robbers, by profession, have never been known to offer any other violence or insult to females, than to make them give up any gold ornaments that they may have about their persons. In all my enquiries into the character, habits, and conduct of these gangs, I have never found an instance of a female having been otherwise disgraced or insulted by them. They are all Hindoos, and this reverence for the sex pervades all Hindoo society, and is not, like that of Alexander, the favorite hero of history, confined to those of royal descent—it is extended to the females of all grades and all creeds.* Ajeet Sing's only son is now a promising young man, in good service, and provides well for his mother.

Ajeet Sing's own account of his trial for the attack on the iron-monger's shop, is contained in his printed narrative, and is as follows :

"Four months after the Sewdaspore affair, Bhowanee Johur, of
 "Dokawlee, in Kurowlee, Dana and Ramjeet, Luchmun, Mohajeet and
 "Laljeet, committed the Decoitee in the ironmonger's shop in Agra.

* The Pindaree gangs were an exception to this rule, but their leaders and most prominent characters, and indeed the great mass of them, were Mussulmans, and they were monsters of their kind.

" Sheikh Goolam Hossein, the Kotwal of the city of Agra, whose family
 " resided at Koel, was on terms of intimacy with Dana and the other
 " Budhuks, who formerly resided at Koel, and are related to Pohup Sing
 " Jemadar ; and, I believe, it was through this intimacy, that they com-
 " mitted this Decoitee. Dana afterwards became an officer on the
 " Kotwal's Police establishment, and got Mr. Mansell, the Kotwal of the
 " city, and the Serishtadar of his Court, to go, with troopers, in pursuit of
 " me, to Naen-ka-Jhirna in Hindone, where I was arrested with some
 " nineteen others. The Kotwal distributed five hundred rupees among
 " the Native officers of the Magistrate's Court, with a view to get me
 " convicted of this Decoitee, as he was to be dismissed by orders from
 " the Sudder Court, if he did not seize the perpetrators within three
 " months. The Kotwal sent for Dana, who then resided at Rajaka-
 " poora, the village which he had got in rent-free tenure from the
 " Kurowlee Rajah, and got him a post in his own establishment, at a
 " salary of eight rupees a month. He persuaded the Kotwal that my
 " gang had committed this Decoitee, and I was, in consequence, seized.
 " On reaching Agra, I used to attend the Magistrate's Court during the
 " day, and to be very closely confined all night by the Kotwal, who
 " wanted me to acknowledge that I had committed the Decoitee. I told
 " him that it had been committed by his friend Dana, and that I would,
 " if he wished it, get abundance of proof to the truth of what I asserted,
 " but he persisted in saying that nothing but a confession on my part
 " would satisfy him. I protested my innocence to Mr. Mansell, but I
 " did not tell him that I knew Dana and his friends had committed the
 " Decoitee, lest he might question me too closely as to how I came to
 " know it, and discover that I was a person of some note among the
 " Decoit gangs. Dana and the Kotwal gave fifty rupees to Cheyna, a
 " Budhuk, who is now here, and Radhakishun, a Brahmin, since released,
 " and prevailed upon them to declare that I had been engaged with
 " them in the Decoitee, and they got six persons, who were seized with
 " me, to declare that they had heard, from our women in the village,
 " that my gang were the perpetrators : these six persons were Cheyna's
 " son-in-law and another Budhuk, whose name I forget, both related to
 " Dana, one spirit vendor, two blacksmiths, and a water carrier. The
 " Magistrate committed nine of us for trial upon their evidence ; but
 " before the Judge, Cheyna and Radhakishun told the truth, and stated
 " that Dana and the Kotwal had instigated them to accuse us falsely.
 " The Judge released the six witnesses, because it appeared, on the pro-
 " ceedings, that they had come merely to give evidence, and had not
 " been arrested on suspicion with the rest, and also one of the prisoners.
 " The proceedings were sent to the Court of last instance at Allahabad,
 " and I entertained an attorney, an old friend of mine from Jypore, to
 " go to Allahabad, with one of my wives, to plead my cause. After going

"over the proceedings, the Allahabad Court passed orders for our acquittal, and we were released from that charge, but sent to Captain Graham, who sent us to you. Here four of the men were released—three real Budhuks, and the fourth a Brahmin—Cheyna, Gopaul, and myself are the only persons left, out of the party arrested."

The following dialogues held in different parts of India, by the officers of the Department with the Budhuk Decoits themselves, will show what they thought of their profession, and of our chances of suppressing the system, better than I could by any laboured description.

TO MAJOR W. H. SLEEMAN.

SIR,

In talking to the Decoit approvers during my leisure hours, I was forcibly struck with the extraordinary pertinacity with which they appeared to adhere to their calling. Some of the men with me have been in jail for twenty, and one man (Buldeo) thirty years, and still do not appear to have any idea of abandoning their illegal vocation; even now indeed they look on what we consider an honest means of livelihood with the most marked contempt; and in relating their excursions, talk of them with the greatest pleasure, much in the way an eager sportsman describes a fox chase, or a boar hunt. Whilst in conversation with those men, I endeavoured to get them to lay aside all restraint, that I might learn their ideas of the crimes for which they are suffering confinement. Whilst talking of their excursions, which were to me really very interesting, their eyes gleamed with pleasure; and, beating their hands on their foreheads and breasts, and muttering some ejaculation, they bewailed the hardness of their lot, which now ensured their never being again able to participate in such a joyous occupation. From the circumstances detailed by Zalim Sing, it appears hopeless to expect reformation from a Decoit; for notwithstanding Bhoop's brother, Chuttur, having been transported for life, in the same excursion in which Bhoop himself made his escape, we have him again pursuing his vocation nearly in the same place his brother's arrest was effected under Miherban Jemadar in 1820, and where he knew a number of his old associates were then incarcerated in jail.

2. In talking to these men, I quietly recorded our conversation, part of which I do myself the honor to forward, although I am afraid, from the frequent depositions you must have already heard, it will scarcely be interesting to you.

(Signed) W. M. RAMSAY.

Chupra, 18th September, 1839.

Substance of Conversation held by Captain Ramsay with Decoit approvers.

Ramjeet, son of Havildar, formerly inhabitant of Etwa, in Oude.

I have associated for about eighteen or nineteen years with the Seearkhowa Decoits of Oude, of which fraternity I am a member, and have been on eight or nine excursions. At Rusorah, in the Ghazee-pore district, about eighteen years ago, when we got about ten thousand rupees in silver, and five or six thousand copper pice. At Jugdispoor, in Tirhoot, about a year afterwards, when we got sixteen thousand Tippoo Shahee rupees (Spanish Dollars); again next year in the Chupra district, about four marches south-east of Goruckpore, at Sungree Bazar, when we got only nine hundred, or one thousand rupees, and four thousand iron pice, such as are used in Nepal; in the same excursion, indeed, only twenty or twenty-five days afterwards, at Lunbooa Nowrungeea, in the Goruckpore district, where there was a Police guard in those days, we plundered a merchant's house of forty or fifty rupees' worth of silver ornaments, seventy or eighty pieces of cloths, and some twenty or thirty turbans. A year after this, we made an excursion to the eastward, and succeeded in carrying off sixty-four thousand rupees at a place called Junuckpoor. Again a couple of years afterwards, we got two thousand rupees, and jewels worth three or four thousand more at Ramchoura, near Allahabad. A year after this two thousand rupees at Muchlee Shehur, in Oude, or the Jounpore district, I am not certain which; again a year afterwards we committed a Decoitee at Bhairurreea, and only got forty or fifty rupees' worth of jewels—our scouts having been taken in on this excursion, did not give us correct information. Two years after this, I was seized by one of the Goruckpore Police, and have been in jail until you sent for me and made me an approver. I was very tired of the jail and longed to be free; my family had become very poor, indeed were almost starving—it is now ten years since I was apprehended.

Question. I suppose after this long imprisonment, you would have abandoned the trade of a Decoit, and turned an honest man?

Answer. (Shaking his head and laughing) no, no, that would never do, why should I become an honest man—work hard all day in the sun, rain and all weathers, and earn, what? some five or six pice a day! we Decoits lead very agreeable and comfortable lives. When from home, which is generally only during the cold season, we march some fourteen or sixteen miles a day for ——— a couple of months, or say four at the outside—commit a Decoitee, and bring home money sufficient to keep us comfortable for a year, or perhaps two. When at home, we amuse ourselves by shooting and visiting our friends, or in any way most agreeable

—eat when we please, and sleep when we please—can, what you call an honest man, (a bhulla admee), do that ?

Question. Do you recollect any of your fraternity ever having abandoned the profession and become honest ?

Answer. No, no one ever did, I am certain of it ; after having been arrested, on our release, we frequently take lands, to make it appear we have left off Decoitee, but we never do so in reality : it is only done as a feint, and to enable our Zemindars to screen us.

Question. Do your Zemindars know you to be Decoits ?

Answer. Yes—to be sure they do—we are the best tenants they have—we pay them well for the protection afforded us. I have given as much as thirty rupees a beegah ! where would the Zemindar get that from any one else ?

Question. At what age do you generally commence going out on excursions ?

Answer. If an intelligent active lad, about sixteen or seventeen, otherwise eighteen or twenty. I went before I was sixteen, with Chaidee Jemadar, who then resided at Etwa in the forest, about four marches north-east of Lucknow. My father and he were great friends—my father died when I was only four or five years old, since which time Chaidee brought me up—poor fellow ! he was seized by the Nawab's orders, and placed in the Lucknow jail about thirteen years ago, and there, I believe, he now is.

Question. Has he any sons ?

Answer. Yes, I recollect seeing a son of his ; he was then a boy of four or five years old.

Tibboo, son of Cheenooa, aged fifty or fifty-five, inhabitant of Toolseepore, in Oude.

Question. How many Decoitees have you committed ?

Answer. Thirteen or fourteen are all I can recollect at present, viz., about thirty years ago, when I was quite a lad, I first went under Rajaram Jemadar to the eastward, and we succeeded in carrying off about thirty thousand rupees at Choonakharee, near Moorshedabad. After this, next year we made a second excursion to Moorshedabad, but only got three thousand rupees. The following year we were still more unfortunate, as in reaching Akheergunge, near Moorshedabad, where our scouts had gained information for us of a large sum of money being deposited, we failed in getting out the money which was placed in a

large strong iron chest, which from its great weight we could not carry away ; nor could we break it open ; so after travelling all this distance, we had to return empty handed. Next year, the goddess Kalee took compassion on our misfortunes, and sent us a large booty of eighty thousand rupees at Ghooreea Ghat, in the Mozuffurpore district, and not a hair of one of our heads was hurt. The following year we got four thousand rupees at Aukummagunge, north of Purneah—next year we obtained four thousand rupees at Boochaghur, in the morning, north of Dinajpore. A year after this, we went to Dummama Shuhur, where we only got three hundred rupees, and some ten or twelve months afterwards, we got six thousand rupees' worth of jewels in Dhurbunga. The following year we got twenty-five thousand rupees at Sahibgunge, *alias* Natpore, west of Purneah. Again at Hurlakee, south of Junuckpore, in Tirhoot, we obtained three hundred rupees ; and the following year at Seetapore in Oude, we got three hundred rupees' worth of jewels. At Baraitch, the year succeeding the Seetapore Decoitee, we carried off three hundred rupees' worth of property ; and the last time I was out, we got about five hundred rupees' worth of jewels at Kutghur in Oude. After this Decoitee, Dan Bahadoor Sing, my Zemindar, seized me on a requisition of the Goruckpore Police, and I was lodged in the Zillah jail, where I have since remained, now ten years.

Question. How came your Rajah to seize you, as I understand your Zemindars generally afforded you protection ?

Answer. So they do, but in this case he could not help it—he was hard pressed by the Goruckpore authorities, and would have got into a scrape himself.

Question. You have been a long time in jail, and I suppose heartily disgusted with the life of a Decoit ?

Answer. I am disgusted with the jail certainly ; but what life is equal to that of a Decoit ? easy work and well paid ! misfortunes happen to all classes and all callings. In the seven or eight hundred men you have in jail here, there is not a single Decoit amongst them, but those you have brought—some twenty men. Many are what are termed “bhulla admies,” respectable men, but still they are in jail, and men, I dare say, who have been working all their lives to gain an honest livelihood, a mere pittance. Being in jail is “kismut—nuseeb,” (destiny) and not an evil confined to Decoits, or great offenders of any kind.

Question. I suppose from what you say, if you had been released, you would again have gone on Decoitee excursions ?

Answer. To be sure—what else ? my father was a Decoit—my grandfather a Decoit, and all my family—why should I turn any thing else ; and what other calling so pleasant ? we live very comfortably—eat

meat, and drink “shrāb ;” and go about amusing ourselves eight or ten months of the year shooting, &c. &c. We generally go on our Decoitee excursions during the cold season.

Question. Were you ever seized before the Rajah made you over to the Goruckpore Police ?

Answer. No, never—I never was—never even asked an ugly question.

Question. Do you murder people on these Decoitee excursions ?

Answer. No, we never murder—if people choose to oppose us, of course we strike and kill, but you do the same. I hear now there is a large assemblage of troops in the Upper Provinces, going to take foreign countries—if they are opposed, they will kill people, we only do the same.

Question. You mentioned that after your bad luck at Akheergunge, the goddess Kalee took compassion on you, and in consequence you succeeded in carrying off eighty thousand rupees at Ghoreea Ghat, in the Moozufferpore district—what had Kalee to do with it ?

Answer. Kalee shews us by certain signs where we ought to go to find treasure. She is our patroness ; how could we otherwise have so long prospered, were it not for her auspices ?

Question. Well, she must be but a poor patron, when she has allowed us to seize you in this way. Major Sleeman and his Assistants have arrested a great many of your fraternity, I understand ; if what you say about the goddess Kalee having taken you under her protection be true, how could she thus allow me and other *Sahib log* to seize you ?

Answer. We have not attended to the instructions laid down, and have infringed her rules, and disregarded the signs. I have often heard my forefathers say, we should one day be punished for it. I now see we are in a fair way of being exterminated altogether.

Question. Do you think we shall succeed in extirpating you ?

Answer. If you go on in the way the Thugs have been put down, we certainly shall ; but in the customary way, that is, requiring proof to convict of specific acts of Decoitee, never, it is impossible—we should go on increasing from year to year.

Question. What is the reason we have so long failed in preventing Decoitee ?

Answer. Why, we manage well—after taking the auspices, and studying the omens well, we despatch our hirowas, or scouts, to ascertain where treasure is ; when they have gained all the requisite information, one or two come and tell us. Our Jemadar assembles his followers, and we set out : when near the place, the Jemadar appoints a certain spot for us to meet in ; we provide ourselves with bamboos on

which we fit our spear heads, which we bring concealed in our clothes with us, and we are then told off in the same way you tell off your sipahees on duty—one man for one particular duty—one for another. We then proceed, guard all the lanes and streets leading to the house we attack ; and if there is any Police guard-house near, send a party to look at that also. After we all perfectly understand the Jemadar's instructions, and every man knows exactly what part he is to perform, the Jemadar gives the word, and we set off for the treasure. We generally proceed as secretly and quietly as possible, until we arrive at the spot, when we make a rush—break open the door of the house in which the treasure is—tear off the lid of the box, or break it open with our “kholeharees,” axes, and shoot or cut down any man that opposes us—place the treasure on the shoulders of a few steady old hands, and retreat, keeping these in our centre. Our detached parties fall in, and we have a covering party in our rear—these, if they hear any pursuers, strike off a little to the right or left, and lying down on the ground, allow them to get in advance of them ; on which they then jump up, and attacking our pursuers in their rear, give them a poke or two with their spears, and perhaps cut one or two down : this creates such a panic, that they molest us no further, and we make a long forced march, and burying our treasure, break up into small parties in the morning. All day we remain concealed, and in the evening, after taking up our booty, it is made over in different sums to several parties ; and these, taking separate roads, or travelling in parties, proceed home, and it is there divided.

Question. Do your women get their shares ?

Answer. Yes, every woman a Decoit has gets her share ; and they have generally three or four—sometimes more—every child gets a share. If a Decoit's wife had brought forth a child on the morning of the day the Decoit returned from the excursion, that child is as much entitled to a share, as if it had been on the expedition. This is done to encourage us to marry, and multiply ; and it is a good plan—we have increased very rapidly—there are immense numbers of Decoits in Oude, in the Turæ, and to the westward. If you get Mehda Sing to become an approver, he will be able to tell you all about the western gangs ; he comes somewhere from Bhurtpore, and is an old Decoit.

Question. Why, if you live in Oude, how can you tell whether he is a Decoit at all ?

Answer. Have we not been in jail together, we had had some conversation, and one Decoit soon discovers another.

Question. Have you any slang terms like the Thugs ?

Answer. We can talk together in slang—the Decoit understands the Decoit, when no one else understands him. Although I came from

Oude, I can understand what a Jypore Decoit says perfectly, although, if he speaks in the language used by villagers, I could not make out what he means—their language is different from that of the people of Oude—the slang of the Decoits is the same.

Question. Do you receive shares of booty obtained whilst in jail?

Answer. In former days we always did—but now the Jemadars cheat us, but if confined in Oude, I believe they get paid as regularly as formerly. My family have been in great distress since I was arrested—my wife died; and my son is wandering about, God knows where.

Question. How old is your son?

Answer. About eighteen or nineteen now—I left him a boy of eight or nine—I suppose, if alive, he is now a “jowan” (young man).

Question. Do you suppose he has been on a Decoit excursion yet?

Answer. He had not gone while I was at large—it is impossible for me to say whether he has or not—he is the son of a Decoit.

Question. If you had not been arrested, would you have made a Decoit of him?

Answer. Yes, I suppose so—what else could he have done?

Question. Were any of your party ever wounded in any excursion?

Answer. No, never. In Oude, people sometimes make use of their weapons, but never in the Company's provinces—indeed no one has any to use. Arms are prohibited by the *Sahib logs* (European gentlemen).

Buldeo, son of Jeosee, aged fifty years.

I have been a Decoit for thirty or thirty-five years, and have been engaged in some eight or ten excursions. I first went under Sabit Jemadar, when we committed a Decoitee in Khyrabad in Oude, and succeeded in getting about three thousand rupees. Some two or three years after this, we got twenty-eight thousand rupees at Mahommudapoor; again two years afterwards, we got thirty-five thousand rupees at Phoottee Nawab Gunge; and about twelve months after that, we went to Fyzabad, where we got nothing, the scouts having got bad information. Some years after this, at Ahmut in Oude, near Chandapore, we got about fourteen thousand rupees. I have been twice in jail, once in Lucknow, when I was a boy. I was arrested with Sabit Jemadar, by Joogulkishore's lushkur, (troops) when we were *en route* to commit a Decoitee at Buxar in your provinces; and there I was kept ten years in jail, and nearly starved to death. Again when under Bhoop Sing, I was arrested at Guya, and then placed in jail, where I have remained for nearly twenty years.

Question. When were you in jail at Lucknow—how many years ago?

Answer. Some forty or forty-five years ago—I was then a lad of seventeen or eighteen, and was proceeding on my first excursion under Sabit, when we were seized, in all six or seven men—the remainder, in all some thirty or forty, made their escape.

Question. You say on your first excursion, you were arrested, thrown into jail, and there nearly starved, and still, on your release, you allow you again pursued the same profession as that which caused your leading the ten years of misery in jail—why did you not turn to something else?

Answer. What could I do? that is my vocation, and by it I must live or die.

Question. If you had been released after the twenty years' incarceration you have had in Guya, would you still have pursued the trade, and again gone on Decoitee?

Answer. I will not deceive you, I should have gone home, joined my brethren, and I suppose have done as they do, and what our ancestors did before us.

Question. On your release from ten years' imprisonment in the Lucknow jail, how long did you remain in your village, before proceeding on another excursion?

Answer. About ten or twelve months.

Question. What! so soon?

Answer. I was then young, and in high spirits—I had been confined with many other old Decoits—and in jail I used to hear them talking of their excursions, how they got fifty thousand rupees here, and twenty thousand rupees there; and I used to long for my release, that I might go on Decoitee and enjoy myself.

Question. Did any Decoits escape when the grand capture was made in Guya in 1820?

Answer. Yes, about thirty or forty made their escape.

Question. Do you know what they have been about since? did you hear from any of your friends?

Answer. O yes—I have seen some of them since, and I heard from Zalim Sing, who was confined at Shahabad at the time, that five or six of the Decoits came to look after some treasure, and were seized by Mr. Gough's Sepahees at Arah.

Zalim Sing was here called, and asked if this was the case?

Answer. Yes, perfectly true—I was then in the Shahabad jail—the Decoits were scouts sent to give information of some treasure about to be removed to some other place. They had put up at the same place

where the treasure was, when the Sepahees, who had been guard over prisoners on many occasions, overhearing their slang, suspected they were Decoits and seized them; they were placed in jail, but as nothing could be proved against them, they were released. One of them, Bhoop, was a brother of Chutter, who was transported from Guya. When Bhoop himself managed to escape in 1820, they were five daring fellows. When Mr. Gough released them, he sent a Burkundaze to convey them out of the zillah, the Decoits thought it would be very inconvenient to have this fellow annoying them and making them feed him, as burkundazes always do—so when they had got some seven or eight coss from Shahabad, they tied him up to a tree, and tearing the Perwana he had to pieces, crammed it down his throat, and made off. This Burkundaze, on his release from the tree, went and reported the circumstance to Mr. Gough, who put him into jail for three months.

(Signed) W. M. RAMSAY.

Deposition of Heeranund Budhuk, of the Gwalior Territory, taken by Captain Graham, 16th July 1839.

Question. How long have you been a Budhuk?

Answer. Ever since I was fifteen or sixteen years of age—which is five or six years ago.

Question. Are you a Budhuk by birth?

Answer. Yes, my family have been so for seven generations.

Question. Are Budhuks always Decoits?

Answer. Always, unless paid well to keep quiet; and if they take service, they then get away when there is any Decoitee going on. A Budhuk cannot live on five or six rupees a month like a servant of Government.

Question. Have Budhuks no other occupation?

Answer. None, but Decoitee and Theft.

Question. Will no punishment keep you from returning to your old trade?

Answer. None, I should think—it is our profession—seizure and punishment are the evils we are subject to, but they would not prevent our returning to the occupation of our forefathers.

Question. When Budhuks grow old and cannot go on Decoitee are they still paid a share of plunder?

Answer. Always.

Question. Where do you live generally ?

Answer. Either in the hills, ravines, or jungles.

Question. What do you do with yourselves when not engaged in any Decoitee ?

Answer. We eat, drink, have different kinds of amusements, dancing, singing, shooting, &c., and live a merry life—after a good Decoitee, we may enjoy ourselves for months.

Question. Do you ever turn cultivators ?

Answer. Sometimes a man may cultivate half an acre of land for his own purpose, but it is not our custom—it is too hard work for us, we can get money without it—besides the Zemindars would not employ us.

Question. How do you get money when you are unsuccessful in Decoitee ?

Answer. The Zemindars and the leaders of the gang lend it on interest—four annas in the rupee—to be paid when we have a Decoitee.

Question. How often have you been on Decoitee ?

Answer. Six or seven times.

Question. If one man of a family goes on Decoitee, do the other members of his family get shares ?

Answer. Every one of them, if they were from ten to twenty, if one of the family is on the expedition ; and if one is seized, his wife and children get shares while he is in confinement ; and if one is killed, his widow gets a sum of money according to the importance of the person, and is subsisted for life.

Question. If a man was confined for twenty years, would he still, on release, return to Decoitee ?

Answer. To be sure he would—how could he do otherwise ? it is Budhuks' means of subsistence.

Deposition of Seetaram Budhuk, of the Gwalior Territory, taken by Captain Graham on the 16th July 1839.

My name is Seetaram, *alias* Hunsah, my father's, Davee Sing, my age twenty-six, by caste Budhuk Powar, and I am a Decoit—from the age of fifteen I have been engaged in Decoitee and Theft.

Question. Did you take to Decoitee of your own accord, or were you brought up to it by your parents ?

Answer. My family have been Budhuk Decoits for seven generations, and how could I be any thing else ?

Question. If you are caught and punished, do you again return to your old practice ?

Answer. If a Budhuk were seized ten times and fed by you, while in confinement, he would, when released, return to Decoitee for subsistence. We are never any thing but Decoits, and never could be, and this is how we live.

Question. Do you never enter into other trades or occupations—become agriculturists, or servants ?

Answer. Budhuks never live by any other means than theft or Decoitee—there are two or three families in the Alwar States, who have got a jageer—previously they were Decoits, and so they would become again, if the jageer were taken from them, and they only refrain while paid to be quiet—and if any take service, they obtain leave and join any Decoitee that may be going on—eight or ten rupees per mensem could not keep them.

Question. How do you make out that Budhuks could not subsist on eight or ten rupees per mensem ?

Answer. We drink liquor, and eat meat, and a great deal of ghee and rice, keep four or five wives, &c.

Question. How much will subsist a Budhuk, his wife, and two children ?

Answer. They will live on what they can get while in jail, but when at home, two rupees per diem would not be more than enough.

Question. If you are unsuccessful in your Decoitee, and have no money, how do you manage ?

Answer. We get money from the Jemadars and Zemindars, to whom we pay four annas to the rupee—twenty-five per cent. interest—when we have a good Decoitee and are able to repay ; and the Zemindars give us protection on this account, and they get shares of our spoil besides.

Question. What castes do you admit into your fraternity ?

Answer. We adopt Brahmans, Rajpoots, Buneahs, Kaets, Aheers, Barbers, Shepherds, Loda, Kachees, Meenas, Goojurs, and Koormees ; but Danooks, Chumars, and Maiters, we do not admit, or any Musulman.

Question. How do you admit them, do you compel them to join you, or do they do so of their own accord ?

Answer. We adopt them, and they follow the trade of their own accord and to get food and raiment and their money easily ; we all smoke the same hookah, although we don't eat together, and we do not give

the girls of regular Budhuks in marriage to them, and they are called Gholamee Budhuks.

Question. What animals do you eat ?

Answer. We eat all descriptions, except bullocks, cows, buffaloes, snakes, foxes, and jackals.

Question. When you escape from jail, or are released, how do you subsist ?

Answer. We are supported by any Jemadar Budhuk we meet, till we reach our gang, and pay twenty-five per cent. interest for every rupee we borrow when we get our share of plunder.

Question. Do the Zemindars, where you locate, lend you money, and what security do you give, and what object have they in giving you protection ?

Answer. They do, and get well repaid out of our plunder.

Question. Do you never assist the Zemindars by manual labour ?

Answer. Never—agriculture is too hard work for us.

Question. If one Budhuk goes on Decoitee, and he has eight or nine other people in his family, do they get a share of the plunder, or only the one that goes ?

Answer. If one of the family goes, all the members get a share, and if a woman is with child, and it be born while the gang is out, there is a share assigned to that child also.

Question. How many times have you been on Decoitee ?

Answer. Fifteen times at least on Decoitee, and I cannot tell how many on theft.

Question. If a Budhuk is killed, do his widows get shares ?

Answer. If a Budhuk becomes an approver, they don't get shares ; but otherwise they are supported all their lives, and get something handsome at the time of their husband's death.

Question. Do you keep prostitutes ?

Answer. No, never in our houses—we have nautch girls and pay them, but never keep them.

Question. If a Budhuk dies, does his widow take to another ?

Answer. Yes, whenever they like—and then they forfeit the share of their deceased husband.

Question. If a Budhuk was imprisoned for twenty years and then released, do you say that he would return to his old trade ?

Answer. Certainly—after twenty, or even twenty-five years, as long as he had the use of his limbs.

Question. Did you ever in your life know a Budhuk, who had been confined, leave his trade ?

Answer. Never—Gujraj was released from your jail after one year's confinement, and instantly returned to his gang ; once a Budhuk—always a Budhuk—and all Budhuks are always Decoits. Did not Ajeet, after his confinement at Muthura, return instantly to his old trade ? I was seized myself at Kurowlee for Decoitee, and when released, went off to my gang.

Question. If I let you go now, you would not run the risk again—would you ?

Answer. To tell the truth I should, for I could not support myself otherwise—in fact it is our “*shoke*” (delight).

Deposition of Beejepaul Budhuk, of the Gwalior Territory, taken by Captain Graham on the 16th July 1839.

I have been in Decoitee ever since I was fourteen years of age—I am now about twenty-two—I am a Budhuk by birth—my family have always been such, and always Decoits and thieves. I have been on four cases of Decoitee. We look upon it as much a profession, as a Zemindar does, being an agriculturist ; and what can be the harm, when it has been followed by my father and grandfather ?

Question. If you are released now, would you not fear the consequences of returning to the trade ?

Answer. I am not acquainted with any other means of subsistence, and I confess I should return to it.

Question. Do Budhuks take to any other trade ?

Answer. Never, they may pretend to do so, but it is only to answer their own purposes, and if they take service, it is only to have better means of carrying it on, to get information, &c.

Question. Do you know any thing about Thuggee ?

Answer. No—all kinds of Decoitee, but no connection with Thugs.

Question. Do you commit murder on your victims ?

Answer. We never do—if they fight with us, we are ready ; but if they do not resist us, we never kill any body.

Question. Do you not kill people, if they refuse to shew you where property is hidden ?

Answer. We wound, and frighten them, but do not kill them.

Deposition of Sudaram Budhuk, of the Gwalior Territory, taken by Captain Graham on the 16th July 1839.

My name is Sudaram, my father's Nundram, my age thirty, cast Budhuk Rathore, my occupation Decoitee.

Question. How many years have you been a Decoit ?

Answer. Ever since I was twenty years of age.

Question. Besides Decoitee, have you any other occupation ? do Budhuks ever labour in the field ?

Answer. I never knew any Budhuks that ever did any thing but go on Decoitee ; and if they ever take service, it is with a view to this ; and they always go on leave and join any Decoitee that is going on.

Question. When seized and punished, why do you again return to such a trade ?

Answer. It is our means of subsistence, it is the lot of some persons to labour in the field, some to do one thing, and some another ; and that of Budhuks to rob and steal.

Question. Is it—once a Budhuk—always a Budhuk ?

Answer. Always.

Question. Is this the reason you returned to the trade after your escape from the Meerut jail, although you had been condemned for fourteen years, and knew that if you were caught again, you would be hung ?

Answer. If I had been caught twenty times and got loose, I must have returned to the trade of my fathers—how could I have subsisted in any other way ?

Question. Have Budhuks no fear of the consequences, when they go on Decoitee ?

Answer. None.

Question. When you have been unsuccessful, how do you manage for money ?

Answer. We borrow of the leaders of our gangs, bankers, and Zemindars, and pay, when we can, four annas in the rupee interest.

Question. How much can a Budhuk subsist upon ?

Answer. One to two rupees per diem ; we are great persons for drinking and eating, and we keep several wives according to our means.

Question. How do you feed ?

Answer. On all kinds of animals, except pigs, cows, bullocks, buffaloes, jackals, and foxes.

Question. Are Budhuks ever employed as agriculturists ?

Answer. They never engage on any work—that is very laborious work.

Question. What profit do the Zemindars get by giving you shelter and lending you money ?

Answer. They get twenty-five per cent. interest for every rupee they lend to us ; and they get a large share out of all the plunder we bring home.

Question. Do the members of the family left at home share the spoil ?

Answer. Yes, every individual, and also the families of those in confinement—and if one is killed, his wife gets one or two hundred rupees at the time, and subsistence for life. If a Budhuk turns approver, they then give nothing to his family.

Question. How many times do you think you have been in Decoitee ?

Answer. Five times—and once on theft.

Question. Do you make proselytes ?

Answer. Yes—Hindoos, but not Musulmans, Danucks, Chumars, or Bhangees.

Question. Did you ever know a Budhuk give up Decoitee ?

Answer. Never—I could mention numbers who have been seized, confined, and punished ; but they always return to the trade afterwards—how could they leave the trade of their ancestors ?

Deposition of Kullean Budhuk, of the Gwalior Territory, taken by Captain Graham on the 16th July, 1839.

I am twenty-three years old—I have been in Decoitee ever since I was sixteen or seventeen—I am a Budhuk, and so have my family been for many generations—and Budhuks are always Decoits by profession, and never any thing else, except to cover some purpose connected with the profession. It is the custom for Budhuks to return to the trade, however often they may have met with reverses, imprisonments, or punishment. I have myself been in three cases of Decoitee, young as I am, and am now under sentence of fourteen years on the roads ; but I confess, that I should return to it were I released, for it is my profession, and I know no other, and could take to no other ; besides it is the

profession of my fore-fathers—we could not live in the way we do, on common wages, and all my friends and relations are Budhuks, and I could never be any thing else, if I would.

Deposition of Runjeet, son of Dana Budhuk, Jemadar of a Gang of Decoits of the Gwalior Territory, taken by Captain Graham on the 22d July, 1839.

We commence theft and Decoitee from the age of eighteen to twenty years. We first learn to steal, and then go on Decoitee ; we sometimes get five or six thousand rupees by theft—some Budhuks adhere to thieving, if they are very clever at it, and don't go on Decoitee ; formerly it was common to keep eight or ten, or even twelve wives, but now we never exceed five: we never keep prostitutes, and if any of our gang do so, they lose caste, and are only re-admitted on the engagement of the parties not to offend again in like manner ; and then the ceremony of offering up a goat and sprinkling the offender with the blood of the animal is performed, after which he is allowed to eat and smoke with the fraternity. We live in jungles, ravines, or hills, and enjoy a very jolly life without any fear or apprehension, and in various amusements, such as dancing, singing, &c. We are great drinkers, and live on the fat of the land, eat plenty of rice and ghee, and never the coarser grain, such as barley, jowar, bajra or gram, unless driven to it by long bad luck. We adopt in our community children of all classes except Bangies, Chumars, Kories, and Musulmans, but they are called Goolams, and are not considered as regular members of the clan, until they have been with us two or three generations. We eat all kinds of flesh, such as goats, kids, pigeons, partridges, and other birds, deer, pigs, &c., but not cows, bullocks, or buffaloes. I should say, that two rupees a day would be required to support us in the way we live: some few of us cultivate land a little, but the generality have no other means of livelihood, save theft and Decoitee: some go into service, and make out their living with a little theft. If a Budhuk was seized, and escaped from jail, or was released ten times, he would always return to his old trade. The families of those in confinement are supported by the Jemadars ; and if a Budhuk is killed, his wife gets from two to five hundred rupees at the time, according to the rank of the party, and is provided for as long as she lives, or till she gets another protector. The Zemindars give us protection, and lend us money, receiving for the same four annas in the rupee ; and we give them from two to five thousand rupees as nuzurrana in every Decoitee. The family of a Decoit, who turns King's evidence, is not provided for by the gang.

Deposition of Buckhtour Budhuk, of the Oude Turae, taken by Captain Puton, 1st Assistant Resident, Lucknow, 28th May, 1839.

I have associated for about ten or twelve years with the Sear Khowah Decoits of Oude, and accompanied them on three excursions, namely: the Musafirkhanah Decoitee, where we got two thousand rupees; the Ilyderghur Decoitee, where we got ten thousand rupees; and the Ghoorka Decoitee, where we got twelve thousand rupees. I lived as one of them for ten or twelve years in the Bheera forest, and in other places. I was seized, together with the whole of my gang, by Mehndoo Khan, about six years ago, and remained a prisoner in the King of Oude's jail, until you came and took forty-one of us from the King's to your jail.

Question. The King of Oude released many Sear Khowah Decoits—do they, when released, become cultivators, and give up Decoitee as a bad occupation?

Answer. They neither become cultivators, nor do any thing else, but immediately return to their trade of Decoitee—that is their profession.

Question. What! after the punishment of five or six years in jail, do they still return to Decoitee?

Answer. You might confine them for twenty years—then place them on the gallows, and release them from thence, still they would go back to Decoitee—one hundred of them escaped from the King's jail about four years ago: every man of them is now committing Decoitee.

Question. Is Decoitee a congenial employment to them, or one of fear and apprehension?

Answer. What fear? they have money, wear arms, have two, three, and even four females each; they live in the forests, and change their abodes. The landed proprietors of Oude, where they reside, protect them for the tribute which they pay—the Decoits have no fear of seizure. They bring up their children as Decoits. The tiger's offspring are tigers—the young Decoits become Decoits. Will they leave their trade? If you were to let me loose after ten years' imprisonment, I would go back to Decoitee, and if again seized, again to escape even from the gibbet, I would go back to Decoitee. We have nothing to do with Thugs—God forbid that! no, we never wish to murder; but if any one resists us, we strike and kill. Sear Khowah Decoits are all great drinkers, and eat promiscuously: they eat with Hindoos and Musulmans, but they are neither Hindoos nor Musulmans; they eat jackals,

foxes, wolves ; our names are " Sub-Khowahs," which means, eaters of every thing ; we are outcastes from all other classes of society ; we are a happy set of fellows. When we become old, and helpless, we live in the colony, and still faithfully receive our share of spoil ; the old even get more than the young, and all who are in prison, still regularly get their share. Those in your jail will get their share. If we are caught and confined one thousand times, and again escape, we still return to Decoitee ; and so long as one remains out of jail, he will be a Decoit.

Deposition of Ramdeen, a Sear Khowah Decoit, taken by Captain Paton, 1st Assistant Resident, Lucknow, 28th May, 1839.

I am now twenty-seven years of age ; when I joined the Sear Khowah Decoits in Oude, I was about thirteen years of age, able for Decoitee ; and I remained amongst them in the forest for five years, having accompanied them in three forages, namely :

- 1st. The Decoitee at Musafirkhanah.
- 2nd. The Decoitee at Mirzapore.
- 3rd. The Decoitee in the Nypaul Territory.

I was once seized for Decoitee by Buxee Khan, Zillahdar of Khyrabad Oude, and lodged by him in irons in the great prison of the King of Oude here at Lucknow. I managed to get out after nine months, and forthwith went and joined the banditti in the forest at Bheera Jugdeospore, under the leader, Raidoo Jemadar, a notorious head of Dakoos. I was next apprehended, and confined with a chain about my leg, in the lock-up, by the Shalhchanpore Magistrate for twenty-eight days, and was let loose. I remained for a month with my maternal uncle, Gungadeen, in the village of Guksee-gaon in Oude ; but after a month, I went again and joined the Decoits. I remained amongst them for five years, and about six years ago was seized, with the whole colony—about three hundred persons, men, women, and children—by Mehndoo Khan, and was with them once more lodged in irons in the great Lucknow jail, where I remained, until you came and brought the whole of the Sear Khowahs away.

Question. Have all the Decoits, who escaped, or have been let out, left off Decoitee ?

Answer. Have not the ten sons of Rutee Ram, the leader, who all escaped from that jail, returned to Decoitee? None, of all who got out of jail, have left off Decoitee; they leave it not! those who die, die; but whilst they live, they remain Decoits; they have never done any thing else than Decoitee. They live fearlessly in the forests of Oude, sallying forth in bands of eighteen or twenty men, or even one hundred men, selected, active, and able to carry their spoil of ten thousand, or twenty thousand rupees, as the case may be. In the plunder of Bajee Rao, the Ex-Paishwa's treasure at Bithoor, I, my wife, and child, got nine hundred rupees between us. The Decoits carried off about three hundred thousand rupees; with my share, I bought a horse and a gun; and my wife bought ornaments. The Decoits in the forest lead a comfortable life, unapprehensive of seizure, and they want not for rupees, have plenty of food and clothing, each is married, some have two, three, or four wives; but the mass of them have only one each. I am a Hindoo, but the Sear Khowahs are outcastes from the society of both Mahommedans and Hindoos. Decoits eat all things, but cows; they eat foxes, jackals, crocodiles—nay, they eat serpents! After this, what further enumeration is necessary? The old of our tribe, even while blind and worn out, are supported, and regularly get a share of spoil; all in jail here, men, women, and infants, though doing no service, still get a share of every Decoitee. If a Decoit from prison were to attempt to settle in a village as a cultivator, they would not allow him, because every one knows a man who has been in jail; but even if he were to settle as cultivator for four years, he would leave his field and join Decoits; he will not leave off Decoitee, but say, "my father and grandfather have been Decoits, how shall I be a cultivator?" If they die in the jail, they die; but if they get out, they will go back to Decoitee.

Question. If you had escaped from the King's jail, where would you have gone?

Answer. I will not lie, (laughing) I would have gone back to Decoitee, what else? Fathers teach their children Decoitee.

Deposition of Gunga Budhuk, of the Oude Turae, taken at Lucknow, before Captain Paton, 15th June, 1839.

I was with the colonies of Marwaree and Sear Khowah Decoits for six or seven years, and joined them in their expeditions. They get children wherever they can, by purchase or otherwise, and bring them up with care—they often pay high prices for them. When young, they employ them in the household affairs—bringing wood from the jungles, water from the wells, grinding corn for food, cooking, and other things—

they teach them their Decoitee duties as they grow up. If they become able and active, they take them out on Decoitee, if otherwise, they leave them at home, their shares are given to those who bring them up. About Dheera, they call these Decoits Marwars and Sear Khowahs; and in the Dooab, they call them Budhuks. The women are more fond of adopting children, than men, particularly widows, who have none of their own—they adopt girls as well as boys. In booty, the women have two thirds of the share of men. If Government wish to extirpate Budhuks, they should transport all the women beyond seas, that they might neither give birth to any, nor bring up any to the trade; as long as they remain, Decoitee will never diminish in India.

Deposition of Ramdeen Budhuk, Decoit of the Oude Turae, 13th June, 1839, before Captain J. Paton.

I know the usages of the Shuggal Khores and Murwaree Budhuks very well, and lived with them, till our gang was seized by Mehndoo Khan, after the Decoitee on the Paishwa, and brought to Lucknow. The men all go out on Decoitee, and the women go about in disguise; and if they find any children unprotected, they invite them away to the gang, or if they find any disposed to sell their children, get a share of the booty. Many men get killed during the expeditions, and if they were not to adopt in this way, the colonies would diminish in numbers: this is the way that the children, who so often disappear from the towns and villages, are taken away and brought up. They keep them very happy and contented. If they have boys of their own, women seldom adopt.

Deposition of Judal Brahmun, 20th June, 1839, Lucknow.

Eight or nine years ago, I used for two years to go among the Marwarree Decoits to sell cloths and kosum, and I became acquainted with the usages. It is one of their rules that a child, though adopted, always receives a share of the booty, as well as the men—and this makes the men and women very anxious to get children to adopt. They teach them all the arts of Decoitee; and when they become old enough to take a share in Decoitee, they take them out with them; if they do not turn out fit for this work, they leave them at home to manage household affairs. Whether they have any children of their own, or not, they look out for children to adopt; and in times of scarcity, great numbers of children are sold to them.

*Deposition of Bukhtawur Budhuk, of the Oude Turae, 13th June, 1839,
before Captain J. Paton.*

I was a Mussulman, but joined the Budhuk gangs, and they gave me jackal's flesh to eat, and I became one of them. When any of their husbands get killed or die, their widows go and live with whom they like—the children born from them become Decoits; and their own husbands, be they Mussulmans or Brahmuns, out of love for their children, and the prospect of wealth, will certainly in the end join the gang. They often purchase children and bring them up to Decoitee; and they give these children all a share in the booty they get. The children give these shares to their adoptive parents. When they do not turn out fit for Decoitee, they employ them in the household affairs—they have a great many Decoits, who have been thus brought up.

(Here they are named.)

The colonies of the Turae are increased by these means, in spite of the attacks to which they have been subject. If any widow of a Budhuk happens to take up with a man of any other class residing in a town, and have children by him, she will certainly, sooner or later, persuade him to join her old associates in the forest.

*Deposition of Omur Sing Budhuk, Decoit of Alwar and Kerowlee,
Moradabad, 15th June, 1339, before Major Sleeman.*

Question. How many Budhuks receive jageers?

Answer. Shoojan Sing Jemadar gets Gotra, Manickpore and Gotree in the Alwar State—the three are worth about three thousand rupees a year—the Jemadar has about him, of old and young, about fifty or sixty persons—Dana Jemadar, who is in the Agra Police, holds a village in the Kerowlee territory on rent-free tenure—Dana's male relations serve in the Agra Police, and their children and wives remain at their village.

Question. While the Budhuks reside in the Turae and other unhealthy jungles, many of them die of disease, and many of them get cut up in attacks, and seized, but still they seem to increase in number—would they not increase still more in numbers, if they got jageers? and when the rents of the jageers became insufficient, would they not go out on Decoitee?

Answer. Though they should increase rapidly, still if Government separate them, so that they should not communicate, and made them stand muster every day, they would abstain from Decoitee; otherwise

they would certainly go on with Decoitee, which is their trade and delight. When the Jageerdar's descendants become too numerous for the returns, they will certainly return to Decoitee.

Question. What do you mean by separating them ?

Answer. Putting them in separate parties of not more than three and four, so distant from each other, that they can have no communication, and make no arrangements for Decoitee.

Question. How are the arrangements you speak of made ?

Answer. There is a head, or mokhee, whom the whole gang obeys—he is their Jemadar—he has got to lay out five hundred or a thousand rupees in preparation for every expedition, and no party of only three or four could manage all this.

Question. How many wives do Budhuks keep ?

Answer. Some have only one, some two, some three, some four, and some five wives. Those who can afford it, generally keep a good many ; but sometimes even a Jemadar is satisfied with one.

Question. How do you adopt children into your fraternity ?

Answer. We adopt children and bring them up with great care ; and unite them in marriage to the children of other persons of the same caste, who have been adopted into our fraternity. They are brought up to Decoitee like our own children. But we do not adopt Musulmans, or people of low caste—we adopt such as Brahmuns and Rajpoots—we sometimes purchase them, and sometimes get them in a time of famine for almost nothing ; but never steal them.

Question. You have been accustomed to the precarious returns of robbery—cultivators get about four rupees a month—would you not be better pleased to get these four rupees a month regularly from Government, and be employed in tillage ?

Answer. A great deal depends upon people's habits—we have always been pleased with the money we earned in Decoitee, be it much or little. Had we preferred tillage, we should ere this have taken to it. If Government were to offer to give Budhuks four rupees a month, even without labour, they would certainly not willingly come upon such terms. They have always been accustomed to live in the jungles and commit Decoitees upon the people of towns, as a kind of “shikar” (sport)—they delight in it, and they feel living in towns, or among other men, as a kind of prison—they get quite nervous and agitated (*gubrowd*)—the trade and mode of life to which men have been much accustomed, they become attached to ; if you were to offer a fukeer, or other mendicant, a rupee a day as wages for labour, he would not work, as long as he could get eight annas by begging. The wives of Budhuks feel still more nervous and agitated, when they come to reside among other people, than the Budhuks themselves do.

Question. What is the ordinary expenditure of a Jemadar of Budhuks ?

Answer. Some spend ordinarily twelve annas, and some a rupee a day ; and a Tokeyt (foreman) spends about ten annas a day.

Question. You say that the followers could not be induced to come in upon four rupees a month—what allowance do you think would induce the leaders to come in ?

Answer. If you were to offer the Jemadar about one rupee a day, and the Tokeyts, or foremen, what they have been accustomed to spend, they might perhaps be induced to come in.

Question. The Budhuks live at their ease in the jungles, and do no work, except while out in Decoitce—do you think that they could be induced to work, when subsisted by Government ?

Answer. They might be induced by slow degrees to work ; but if any attempt were made to make them work at once, they would all certainly run off—they are all men, and could be made to work by slow degrees.

Question. If the Rajah of Alwar were to resume Shoojan's villages, what would he do ?

Answer. He would return to Decoitce as long as he could find other Budhuks ready to join him—but if all should have been removed, how could he return to Decoitce ?

Question. If a noted Jemadar were to go into a district, where there were no Budhuks, would those in other quarters not soon hear of him, and collect around him ?

Answer. If all other Budhuks were collected by Government, and all satisfied with their condition, they would none of them follow him.

Question. Government might give Budhuks wages for a few years, but they could not pension them for life, or from generation to generation. After a few years, Government might give Budhuks stock, and land, and bid them till it for their subsistence. If after this, any calamity of season should take place, and they should get no returns for a year, what would they do ?

Answer. They would certainly all run off, and take to their old trade—they have been accustomed to Decoitce, and as long as they continue together, they will be reviving the recollections of what their fathers did, and have the desire to return to their old trade ; but if they were for a long time so separated, that they could not communicate with each other, they would not return to Decoitce.

Question. The Jemadars are now the heads of gangs—they know no superiors in the jungles. Were they to come among other men in the plains, where they would be always seeing superiors, would they not feel dissatisfied ?

Answer. Certainly they would—the Jemadars could never be induced to give up the trade, without great care and good management—they would always be taking or sending their followers out on Decoitee—they have always been accustomed to lead and direct gangs, and would always be sorry to give it up ; but their followers would give it up more easily, and not one of them should ever be suffered to go near to a Jemadar.

Question. If the Government were to give ten, fifteen, and twenty rupees a month, as you propose, to Budhuks, from the banks of the Chumbul, and the forests of the Turae, would it not tend to encourage other Budhuks, more remote, to carry on their trade briskly under the persuasion, that at the worst, they would be thus handsomely provided for ?

Answer. But I propose that the whole should be collected, and all have allowances equal to their present expenditure.

Question. How could all the present race of Budhuks be collected from all the Native States where they abound ? and if they could all be collected, would not the Habooras, the Saseeas, the Geedeeas, and Bowries, who are of the same fraternity, though now merely pick-pockets and thieves, be induced to turn Decoits in the hope of getting the same provision ?

Answer. When you get half of the Budhuks, they would be able to invite the other half from the more distant countries. The Habooras, Bowries, Saseeas, and Geedeeas, are mere thieves—they could never acquire the courage and wisdom requisite for Decoitee—we have first to send on two or three very wise men, called Hirweyas—men who could guide you through a pathless forest for eight miles—they go on, and ascertain all the things necessary to be learned about the place to be attacked, and return and tell the leader—he then makes arrangements to support the attack, and cover the retreat ; and every man must be brave—if any man ventures to resist, we kill him—and knowing this, people are afraid to resist Budhuks. The Jemadar is obliged to incur an outlay of from five hundred to a thousand rupees for every Decoitee ; and he collects around him a set of brave, staunch men, ready for any enterprise. None but Budhuks could do all this—no other men could attempt it.

Question. If Government were not to give any money allowance, but merely land, and stock to till it with, would Budhuks take them, and give up Decoitee ?

Answer. Not one ! Budhuks are not men, who could be at once induced to give up Decoitee for the labours of tillage. If you would give them wages for some years, they might then, by degrees, be weaned from Decoitee.

Question. Do those only share in the booty, who are actually engaged in the Decoitee, or all ?

Answer. All share—as well those who stay at home, as those who go on the Decoitee. The women get one share—the elder children three quarters—if a child is born while we are absent, whether male or female, it gets half a share—the men get two shares, whether they remain at home or go on the Decoitee, if they belong to the same gang.

Question. If a man has more than one wife, does each wife get a share?

Answer. If he has five or more wives, each wife will have a share.

Question. Then it is profitable to have many wives ?

Answer. The outlay for clothing, feeding, and otherwise providing for a wife, comes every day ; while the share she gets for Decoitee, comes often after long intervals. We, who follow the trade of Decoitee as an exclusive profession, came from Marwar originally, but when our ancestors emigrated, I know not—they were all Rajpoots, and took exclusively to Decoitee and theft for subsistence. The Rajpoots, who remained in Marwar, called us Bowries in consequence—this is the name of our clan—it has no other signification that we are aware of—all Rajpoots, that follow the trade of Decoitee and theft, call themselves Bowries—they accost each other as Bowries, and distinguish each other, from all the rest of mankind, by this title—those of one part of the country, on meeting another, ask, are you a Bowrie ?—those of the *east* speak of us of the west as the *western* Bowries, and we speak of them as the eastern Bowries—this is the general term by which we know each other. The branches of the clan that have gone into different parts, have been called different names—we of Kurowlee, Gwalior, Alwar, and Jypore, call ourselves Bagoras—if any one of our clan came among us from the eastern, or any other colonies that go by different names, he would, in a single day, be called a Bagora, and would call us the same ; but we should say of him, that he was an eastern Bagora. The term Bagora is given, by the people of the above named districts, to all who rob professionally—so the Sear Khowas and Marwars of the Turac—we should be called by the same names were we to go among them—their wise men would know that we were from the west, though of their clan. We are no longer Rajpoots ; but to regulate our marriages, we maintain the distinctions among us of the seven castes—Chowan, Rathore, &c. ; all our slang language is the same throughout all the colonies, and we all intermarry ; and when we hear each other, we can always know a genuine Bowrie Decoit. We call all other men Munsa, as distinguished from us Bowries ; but we could not call Ram Kurunhere a Bowrie—he is an adopted son, and by caste, a Koormee. He would be called a *Parha*, but in five or six

generations, his real caste might be forgotten, and his descendants might be called Bowries. *We* could not call the Sub Khowas, or Sear Khowas, by that name to their face—they would be offended—but *you* might call them so, and they would not—it is a nick-name.

Question. Do your wives ever assist in getting you released, when you are arrested ?

Answer. When police officers arrest Budhuks, their old women get round them, and give them large sums of money ; and they either release them, or get their depositions so written, that their release shall be ordered by the Magistrate. If they are brought to Court, their old women, dressed in rags, follow them at a distance of three or four miles, with a thousand or two thousand rupees, upon ponies ; and these rupees they distribute among the native officers of the Court, and get the Budhuks released. If they cannot get them released at the Magistrate's Court, they expend their rupees among the native officers of the Sessions' Court. These old women first ascertain, from the people of villages, who are the Nazirs and Moonshees of influence, and wait upon them at their houses, and make their bargains. If they cannot effect their release, they take money from the old women, and send them off to the Sudder Court, with letters of introduction to their friends, and advice as to the rate they shall pay to each according to his supposed influence. This is the way that all our leaders get released, and hardly any, but useless men, are left in confinement. If you want to secure our leaders, you must send men of great integrity in pursuit of them.

Question. Do you know where the gang of Bukshee Jemadar went, after their leader had been killed in Mhendoo Khan's attack ?

Answer. I heard from our friends at Manuckpoor, that they came over the Jumna under his sons, and joined the gang under Soojun, the Jageerdar of that place. It is his custom, when a gang comes to him from any other quarter, to get them to go on two or three Decoitees, and then send them away. He never goes on any Decoitee himself, nor does he allow any of his nearest relations to go, but all the other members of his colony go. He takes a share from any one that will give it willingly ; but he never obliges any Decoits to give him a share, lest they should expose him to the Alwar Rajah. The fear, that the Rajah may know that he still carries on Decoitee, prevents his allowing any new gang to remain long in his neighbourhood—were he to encourage their residence, he would soon get a thousand families around him.

CHAPTER IX.

In order to induce the reclaimed Decoits to disclose freely all that they knew, and to aid cordially in the arrest and conviction of their associates, Government, in letters, dated the 27th of June and 29th of July 1839, authorized me, and all my coadjutors, to promise a conditional pardon to all Decoits by profession, of whatever grade ; but required, as in cases of Thuggee, that the person who received such pardon, should make a full and free confession—plead guilty before the Court to which he might be committed, to such of the offences before acknowledged in his narrative, as it might be deemed expedient to commit him to trial for—that he should give true and faithful information respecting his accomplices, and touching all circumstances connected with the case or cases of Decoitee, when called upon to do so—that a specific sentence should be recorded by the Sessions Court against every Decoit so pardoned ; the execution of which was to be suspended during the good behaviour of the convict, and that this sentence might eventually be entirely remitted in cases, wherein the Commissioner for the suppression of Decoitee, might deem the person to have merited such indulgence from the Government, by a course of true and faithful service, or for other special reasons.

The Commissioner submitted to Government for approval, the following form of a certificate to be given to all Decoits so conditionally pardoned ; and its approval of this form was conveyed in a letter from the Secretary, dated the 29th July 1839. It was the same in substance as that which had been given to all reclaimed Thugs, whom it had been found necessary to employ as approvers ; but with this difference, that it was never thought safe to release altogether reclaimed Thugs, or to enlist them in public establishments, liable to be employed beyond the strict surveillance of the officers of the department.

“ You, Ajeet Sing, are promised exemption from the punishments of
“ death and transportation beyond seas for all past offences, and such
“ reasonable indulgence as your services may seem to merit, and may be
“ compatible with your safe custody, on condition :— 1st, that you make a
“ full confession of all the Decoitees in which you have been engaged ;
“ 2d, that you mention truly the names of all your associates in these

“ crimes, and assist, to the utmost of your power, in their arrest and conviction. If you act contrary to these conditions—conceal any of the circumstances of the Decoitees in which you have been engaged—screen any of your friends—attempt to escape—or accuse any innocent person—you shall be considered to have forfeited thereby all claim to such exemption and indulgence.”

By these assurances of protection, employment, and subsistence, a good many of the Decoits were induced to tender their services, as they were arrested and brought in to the officers of the department from different parts of India, both north and south of the river Jumna ; and a vast fund of useful information was placed upon record in their offices in the narratives of their lives, and the lists of the persons associated with them in the perpetration of their crimes, which each person was required to give, before he was admitted to all the privileges of an approver. They strove to establish a reputation for veracity in these narratives and lists, (which they knew would be subjected to a severe test), as the only means of obtaining a respectable status in their new vocation ; and when, by a comparison of many taken at distant points, so as to remove all chance of collusion, the leaders and more prominent characters of the several gangs became well known, Government was induced to offer liberal rewards for their apprehension.

As in the case of Thugs, these rewards were paid to the captors alone, and immediately after the capture and full recognition of the offenders. Those of their associates, who gave evidence at the final trial, were seldom those by whom they had been first denounced in their narratives, or by whom they were arrested, so that their conviction could not be influenced by any hope of a share in these rewards. This was a great advantage in the suppression of both these systems ; and never perhaps in the history of crime and its suppression, has there been any other instance of so few arrests, compared with final convictions, or of so much security to the innocent, in the pursuit of the guilty. The same precautions were taken in the recognition of arrested offenders, by their old associates in crime, as had been taken in the case of Thugs. Immediately after they were brought in, and before these associates could see them, or hold any communion with each other, the prisoner was placed among many other persons, and the approvers were brought in one after the other, and made to point him out, and describe his parentage, name, and caste, and the crimes in which he had been associated with them, or in which they believed him to have been engaged. Their depositions were compared with what they had stated in their narratives of the prisoner before his arrest.

I should here mention, that in the case of Decoits by profession, as in that of Thugs, a separate *misul*, or file of proceedings, is kept for every individual, and it goes on increasing from the time when he is first denounced as a member of the gang, till he is finally committed to the Sessions for trial, when it is sent up for the inspection of the Court, with the other documents. The deposition of the person who first denounces him, is first filed, then, those of the persons who have stated any thing regarding him before other officers of the department at a distance. To these are added all depositions regarding him, subsequently taken before and after arrest, the reports of local authorities as to his character in the district in which he resided, and his own defence or confession, with the depositions of any witnesses to his own character, which he may wish to have examined.

In the same manner, a separate file is formed of every particular case of Decoitee described in the narratives. The deposition, or an extract from it, of the person, who first described it, is first filed, then the reference to local authorities, to ascertain whether it really took place as described or not, and their replies; then the depositions of all the approvers, who are said to have been engaged in it, and are employed under different officers, those of the persons who have been robbed, and, in short, those of all who are supposed to know any thing of it. This *misul*, or file, is also sent up for the inspection of the person who conducts the final trial, and he attaches such weight, as may seem to him proper, to the evidence it contains.

Every thing that is known regarding an individual Decoit, may be at once found, by a reference to his file in the Superintendent's office; and every thing known regarding a particular Decoitee, in whatever part of India, may, with equal facility, be found by a reference to the file which relates to it.

While taking down the narratives of these men, some from the north, and some from the south of the Jumna, I discovered peculiarities in their pronounciation, which were common to them all, but foreign to the people among whom they had been for generations located. The colonies to which they belonged were many hundred miles distant from each other, and had been so for many generations, and they could have had but little communion with each other; and as they all pronounced the same words in the same peculiar manner, substituting the *kh* for the *s*, I concluded that they must originally have had a language peculiar to themselves, and might still speak it among themselves. The Thugs had slang words and phrases, which enabled them to communicate with each other in the presence of their victims, without being understood by

them ; but they used them only when they found them necessary to conceal their designs, and effect their object. Such slang words and phrases were more necessary to men who had to inveigle their victims and often to keep in company with them for days together before they found all circumstances favorable to their designs upon them than to men who committed their outrages with open violence, as the Budhuks did, separating before and after attack, to conceal their character, and concentrating only at the time and place for attack.

I soon found that my conclusion was just, and that the Budhuks had a language of their own, common to all the colonies however distant from each other, but distinct from that of the people among whom they lived ; and that their children hardly spoke any other, till they were fourteen or fifteen years of age. I made members, from all the different colonies the most remote from each other, give me the pronouns of their peculiar dialect, and the conjugation of a few of their verbs, with a number of the nouns and adjectives most common among them, and most different in sound from the words used to express the same things in the dialects of the people around them. I found that those given by all, corresponded exactly with each other, though they lived among people who spoke different languages ; and I soon concluded that they were all descended from one common stock, and that their dialect must have been the language spoken in the part of the country from which that parent stock originally emigrated. In order to ascertain in what part of India that country was situated, I sent in September 1839 the following letter to Captain Paton, with a request that he would have it lithographed for me, at Lucknow, for circulation to Magistrates and other local authorities, in all parts of India, where colonies of this class were likely to be found, in order to ascertain whether the language was common to all, and whether it was still spoken by the people of any part.

Leaders and leading members of gangs from all parts of the Oude forest, from Gwalior, Rajpootana, Rohilcund, and the districts between the rivers Ganges and Jumna, all assured me, that I should find this language common to all colonies of the same great family of the Bowries, in whatever part of India they might be found, and to no other existing people, except in Mewar, or the country from which they originally came—that they found men from Mewar who understood some of their words, but had never found a man, not a Bowrie, who could hold a conversation with them in their own language. The following letters, and others of the same kind, from all officers of the department in different parts of India, and other local authorities, tended to show the justice of the conclusion, that all Budhuk Decoits and members of the great Bowrie family, spoke the same dialect, and the documents sent

by Lieutenant Reynolds, from an intelligent friend in Guzerat, whom he did not name, showed that this was the language still spoken by the people of that province. When and how they first came from that province, and spread themselves over all other parts of India, and why they adopted robbery, in its different forms, as an exclusive, hereditary profession, may never be satisfactorily discovered ; but they all believe that their ancestors came originally from Chittore, the ancient capital of Mewar, which borders upon Guzerat, and it is possible that this language may once have been spoken in that capital. Their tradition is, that their ancestors left Chittore, either when it was taken by the Emperor Allah-oo-deen Gourec, in the beginning of the fourteenth century, A. D. 1303, in his desperate but futile attempt to seize Pudmawut, the wife of the Chief, and the most celebrated beauty of the East, or when it was afterwards taken, in the latter end of the sixteenth century, by the Emperor Akber, 1567 A. D. If at either of these times, it was most likely the latter.

I may here anticipate my narrative and mention, that in April 1845, I had, at Jhansee, a visit from a very respectable Parsee merchant from Calcutta, Rutunjee, who was connected with a house of business in Bombay. He spoke English like an English gentleman, and I asked him whether there was any other language that he could speak with the same fluency. He told me that the language which he spoke with the greatest facility, was that of Guzerat—his mother tongue ; and I requested him to permit me to introduce to him a few of these Budhuks from the Oude Turae, who were supposed to speak the language of Guzerat, though neither they, nor their ancestors, had visited the province for many generations. He seemed well pleased to have an opportunity of speaking his own language again ; and I sent for some of the Decoits, who had been born and bred in the Oude forest. He held a long conversation with them on various subjects, and declared that they spoke, with great ease and fluency, the language still spoken in that province. None of them had ever been in the province of Guzerat, or ever before conversed with a person from that province. They declared, that wherever they might be found living separately from the rest of the community, and speaking their own exclusive language among themselves, they would be found to be robbers by profession, and to have always been so, some practising robbery, with open violence, such as the Budhuks, Bagries, Bagoras, Marwaries, Seear Khowas, &c. &c., others practising robbery by stealth, on the highway, or by cutting into houses and tents, but never using any violence, except when obliged to stab, with the sharp instrument which they always carried with them, any person who might attempt to intercept their retreat, when discovered—that some of them could count back their ancestors for twenty generations, during which they had been robbers by profession ; and that they

must, consequently, have been predestined to be what they were, and consequently could never be any thing else.

Circular.

SIR,

I have the honor to request that you will do me the favor to ascertain whether the under-mentioned terms correspond with those, which the Marwarie and Seear Khowa, or other Budhuk colonies of your neighbourhood use, to express the same things among themselves.

2nd. All the colonies of robbers, commonly known by the name of Budhuks, seem to me to come from one common stock—the Bowries of Mewar; and all the branches of that great family, wherever located in India, appear to me, to follow robbery as a profession, to speak the original language among themselves, and no other, except when they require to communicate with other people, or to conceal from other people what they are.

3rd. They divide themselves into eight castes—Chowhan, Rathore, Puwar, Charun, Solunky, Bhatt, Dhandul, Gehlote—and they go by different names in different parts of the country where they happen to be located. In the eastern parts of the Oude Turae, they are called Secar Khawas: in the western part of the Turae, Marwaries. In our territories, all of the colonies which practise Decoitee with open violence, are called Budhuks, as they were when protected, formerly, by the Chiefs of Cumona, Sasnee, Mursaan, and Hatras. Colonies of the same great family, who do not commit Decoitee, are numerous in the Upper Doab and the Delhi territories, and are called Bowries. In Gwalior, Alwar, Jypoor, Bhurtpoor, and Kurowlee, they are called Bagoras; and in Malwa, and some parts of Rajpootana, Bagries: but they all call each other Bowries, and consider the local names as mere nick names, though the only one considered absolutely odious, is the Seear Khowa. In speaking of each other, they will mention these nick names, but not in speaking to each other; it would be considered rude. If a Marwarie, from the Oude Turae, enters a colony on the Chumbul, he becomes immediately a Bagora, and *vice versâ*; but he is always, and everywhere, a Bowrie, if he is of genuine breed.

4th. They avoid having local ties any where, in order that they may move from one part of the country to another, without regret or delay, when required for security. They get into service, the better to assist their friends; but they never entirely break off connexion with their old associates in crime, or cease to share in its fruits.

5th. I shall feel much obliged to you, if you will have the goodness to compare what I have stated, with what you may learn from the men of those colonies with whom you are in communication ; and let me know how far the conclusions to which I have come, on the several points above stated, seem to you to be borne out.

6th. I find the language of the Bagora colonies from the Chumbul, to correspond with that of the Marwaries and Sear Khawas, of the Oude Turae, and the Budhuks of our district ; and I conclude it is common to all and, that of the great parent stock, from which they are all sprung. They change the *s* into *kh*, and for Munsa—man, commonly say munkha ; for turse—thirsty, they commonly say turkhee.

(Signed) W. H. SLEEMAN.

MORADABAD, COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
23rd September, 1839.

P. S.—The Budhuks with me do not understand any of the words given by Lieut. Boileau, in his vocabulary of the Sind and Marwarie languages ; and state, that Guzerat is the only part of India they know, whose language resembles theirs.

SPECIMEN OF THE BOWREE DIALECT.

Bowree—a person of the clan in contradistinction to all other persons.

Bawun—a woman of that clan.

Munsee or *Munkhee*—a woman, not of the Bowree clan.

Munsa or *Munkha*—a man, not a Bowree.

Tardo—cold.

Taton—hot.

Rotala—bread.

Tureear or *Paturra*—a sword.

Dhando—a bullock.

Dhantee—a hare.

Khumree—a kite.

Meenkee—a cat.

Khap—a snake.

Londeo—a dog.

Neyturree or *Chureeo*—a knife.

Khakuree—a shoe.

Beckhee or *Beeshee*—sitting down.

Raton—red.

Soee or *Khoe*—sleeping.

Hirndo—walking, going.

Nohree—a jackal.

Deekroo or *Cheea*—son of a Bowree.

Deekree or *Choree*—daughter of a Bowree.

Agoo—father of a Bowree, or any other.

Ace—mother of a Bowree, or any other.

Ehwalnee—girl or daughter, not of a Bowree.

Ehwaleea—son, not of a Bowree.

Bhathoo—a stone.

Turkhee or *Turse*—thirsty.

Tokon—signs left on the road by a gang to indicate it to their friends.

Bhandow—bad.

Khao—good.

Kheekee—a rupee.

Kor—for *Soor*—a pig.

Mooreea or *Moor Moor*—slowly.

Wadran—a cloud.

Lote—flour.

Ghurtee—a grinding stone.

Bhagra or *Bhogla*—dividing as booty

Bowree Conjugation of the Verb—To go.

I go,	<i>Ho hindo cho.</i>	We go,	<i>Humeen hindea cho.</i>
Thou goest,	<i>To hindey che.</i>	You go,	<i>Tumhee hindo cho.</i>
He goes,	<i>Pelo hindey che.</i>	They go,	<i>Pela hindey cho.</i>
I went,	<i>Ho hindo to.</i>	We went,	<i>Humeen hindo tha.</i>
Thou wentst,	<i>To hindo to.</i>	You went,	<i>Tumhee hindo tha.</i>
He went,	<i>Felo hindo to.</i>	They went,	<i>Pela hindo tha.</i>
I will go,	<i>Ho hindees.</i>	We will go,	<i>Humeen hindson.</i>
Thou wilt go,	<i>To hindse.</i>	You will go,	<i>Tumhee hindson.</i>
He will go,	<i>Pelo hindee.</i>	They will go,	<i>Pela hindseyn.</i>
Let me go,	<i>Munhee hindova do.</i>	Let us go,	<i>Human hindwa do.</i>
Go thou,	<i>To hind.</i>	Go you,	<i>Tumheen hindo.</i>
Let him go,	<i>Pelan hindova do.</i>	Let them go,	<i>Pelan hindwa do.</i>

Going, *Hindooa.*

I,	<i>Meen.</i>	Their,	<i>Pelana.</i>
Mine,	<i>Marko.</i>	To them,	<i>Techoon.</i>
We,	<i>Humeen.</i>	To me,	<i>Munheem.</i>
Ours,	<i>Humara.</i>	To him,	<i>Pelan.</i>
Thou,	<i>Teen.</i>	To us,	<i>Humon.</i>
Thine,	<i>Tarhon.</i>	To them,	<i>Pelaan, Teechoon.</i>
You,	<i>Tumhee.</i>	They,	<i>Tae, Tehonon.</i>
He,	<i>Pelo.</i>	To you,	<i>Tumhan.</i>
His,	<i>Pelanoon.</i>	It,	<i>Teo.</i>
They,	<i>Pelu.</i>	Its,	<i>Teenhoon.</i>

To MAJOR W. H. SLEEMAN,

Commissioner, &c. &c., Moradabad.

SIR,

In compliance with your letter of the — ultimo, I have the honor to state that, with two or three exceptions, the twenty-eight words of the Budhuk, or Bowrie vocabulary, were understood by the following Oude Budhuk approvers here, viz. :

1. Rankee, a Rathore Budhuk, a Bawun, or female Bowrie.
2. Moona, a Solunkee Budhuk, ditto ditto ditto.
3. Gungooa, a Powar Budhuk—not an original Bowrie.
4. Ramhuns, a Rathore Budhuk—a Bowrie.
5. Ramdeen, a Solunky Budhuk—a Bowrie.

They were highly gratified when their language was made the subject of conversation. They state, that this language, which none but

themselves understand, is invariably used in their ordinary conversation, and that it is used by the whole of the Secar Khowas, Marwaree Budhuks of Oude, and also in other Chumbul colonies.

2. The approvers here classify the Budhuks in the following castes : Chowan 1, Rathore 2, Powar 3, Charun 4, Solunkee 5, Gholot 6, Dhandal 7, and Dabee 8 ; they do not mention, or seem to know, the caste, " Bhurtee," of your letter, but all the others are, as there stated ; and the whole of the castes are in Oude included in the general name of Budhuk and Secar Khowas, and on the river Chumbul, in the Gwalior territories, in Jodepoor, Jeypoor, and Ulwur, they are called Bagora and Budhuks. Those in the Bheera forest, in the north east of Oude, are called " Marwaree Budhuks."

3. Their permanency in any place depends upon the degree of protection they receive from the local authorities or zumindars, they are ever watchful for any attack upon them, and usually reside by themselves in huts, aloof from villages.

4. The approvers here say, that the greater part of the Oude Budhuks, whom they estimate at one thousand able bodied men, beside women and children, with their leaders, would come in, on a promise of free pardon, were land given to them to cultivate, by which they might earn a livelihood, and be no longer outlaws ; and that they would all abandon their habits of plunder, and settle down, with their wives and children, as peaceful cultivators of the soil.

5. As in the case of Thugs, it is clear, that they are a most formidable combination against life and property—numerous, bold, enterprising, and increasing in numbers—speaking a language peculiar to themselves, invented for the purpose of concealment—isolated from the general inhabitants of the country—having laws answering in their operation to a pension establishment, by which all who belong, or have belonged to their colonies, men, women, and children, whether with the colony or in jail, receive a share of the booty obtained by plunder, thus binding to their colonies, by the assurances of future support, even in old age, any who might otherwise have left their associations. It is equally evident that the suppression of these colonies can only, as in the case of Thuggee, be effected by a well sustained and simultaneous effort in every part of India, where branches of the colony exist.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

J. PATON,
1st Assistant Resident.

LUCKNOW RESIDENCY,
25th Sept., 1839.

TO MAJOR W. H. SLEEMAN,

Commissioner, &c.

MORADABAD.

SIR,

In reply to your Circular, No. 172, dated 23d September 1839, I have the honor to acquaint you that I examined the Budhuk approvers with me, separately and most minutely, on each head therein detailed. The men were questioned first separately and privately, and subsequently all together, placed before me, and invited to correct any errors they might have before deposed to. You will observe that Dureeow, Runjeet, Tibhoo, Buldeo, and Zalim Sing, who are Oude men, invariably all make use of exactly the same words, differing only occasionally, in a trifling manner, from the specimens sent by you.

Maidha Sing, who comes from Rajghur Mucharee, a place about thirty-six coss north-west of Jeypoor, differs a very little from the Oude men in the pronunciation, and when he does so, generally corroborates that sent by you, the difference being only perhaps an "r," instead of "b," or "kh," instead of "s," in conversation. These men talk with the greatest fluency together in *slang*, and I observed, that in conversation with each other, they invariably use nothing else. Maidha Sing, although living far to the west, indeed close to Jeypoor, is understood by and understands the Oude men, as well as they do each other, as long as they talk the "Bowrie zuban;" (Bowree tongue) but when at my request, Maidha spoke the language of the villagers of his country, they were occasionally at a loss—and he, from his long confinement in jail, does not, I observe, speak the pure "Bhaka" of Jeypoor, which I have frequently myself heard spoken in its purity. Maidha Sing tells me the Decoits of his country speak exactly the same language as what these Oude approvers are making use of before me. The Oude men say the same, and it appears they are all connected in one common craft—a sort of free masonry. In the grand expedition to Guya in 1820, when about one hundred and sixty men, of different gangs, from *different parts of India*, each understanding all the customs, language, and peculiarities of their calling, assembled under one great leader, Seetaram, *alias* Miherban Sing, *alias* Bulbeer, were arrested. The distance of the places of abode of some of these gangs is considerable—indeed, amongst this small number of seven persons, now before me, originally of Seetaram's band, one is a Budhuk, from the vicinity of Goruckpoor, and another from that of Jeypoor, conversing in the "Bowrie" slang with the greatest facility, and this perfectly unintelligible to all, *but* Budhuks. Thugs are as ignorant of it, as the villager at the plough. I am also informed, that the Decoits,

residing in Bengal, make use of the same language, and are of the same origin and castes, as the men I have with me. These, however, state, that they are not personally acquainted with them, but have seen and conversed with them, and all have heard so from their forefathers—that they are of the same family—indeed, from the long period these men have been in jail, I regret exceedingly that, although apparently very willing, they are unable to afford me information on many points, which it would be very interesting and useful to know.

The approvers with me state Bowrie to be the common name of their class of systematic robbers, known to all—although these are of different castes, still all are Bowries, and their vocation, robbery—they neither know, nor practise any other calling.

The castes known are the same as mentioned in the 3rd para. of your letter, with a slight difference in the pronunciation, viz. Chowan 1, Punwar 2, Charun 3, Solunkee 4, or Khorunkhee, Bhartee 5, Dhadul 6, Guhlote 7: they however state No. 2, of your Circular, Rathore, to be a cast of Rajpoots, and not that of Budhuks—"Dabee" is also the same as "Bhartee"—"Seear Khowa," they state to be the designation assigned to *all* Budhuks residing in Oude and the Turae; and they do not know any living in these parts termed, as you mention, Marwaries—on the contrary, they depose "Marwaries" to be used only with reference to the Budhuks from the north west, inhabiting or residing near Marwar. Maidha Sing informs me the Decoits, in his part of the country, are termed Bagoras, and those east of him, located in the Company's provinces, Budhuks. This tallies exactly with the information elicited by you. A Bagora entering the Seear Khowa colony, becomes a Seear Khowa, and *vice versa*. I find the conclusion you had come to, completely verified by the approvers here; and when we also take into consideration, that four out of six men here, have been twenty years in the Behar jail, arrested in a *different part of India*, by a *different* officer, under a *different* leader, from the two, who have been in the Goruckpore jail for ten years, incarcerated by another officer, and *these two parties having never in their lives spoken together, or even seen each other, until they met before me, and then fluently conversing in a language known only to themselves*, and giving readily the same replies to the questions put them by me, as to the customs of their profession, there appears to be no doubt that *all* are connected by some grand link of one vast clan, extending from Bengal to the desert west of Delhi.

The vocabulary has been most minutely compared with the exact pronunciation of each word by the men here, and most satisfactorily understood. I have even added the nasal *r*, where it has been

omitted in your memo., and which perhaps may have been so done from over-sight, in this compilation—showing an extraordinary similarity in the terms used by the Seear Khowas of this part of India, and those of the North Western Provinces with you.

I have to apologise for the haste with which this has been written : my time has been much taken up lately by my duties in the Foujdaree, which are somehow rather heavy, having, in consequence of the removal of all the assistants, charge of more than half the district.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. M. RAMSAY,
Assist. Genl. Supt.

CHUPRA,
The 3rd October, 1839.

No. 630.

TO MAJOR SLEEMAN,
Commissioner, &c. &c.

MORADABAD.

SIR,

The absence of my most intelligent approvers, on detached duty, has obliged me to delay a reply to your Circular, No. 175, of 23d September last ; their return is uncertain, and I cannot now give your vocabulary a perfect test ; but I have the honor to forward a list of explanations given by the only two Budhuk approvers present, and of Ramjeet Jemadar, who is the only prisoner in my jail, willing to communicate a knowledge of the subject.

You will observe, that with slight exceptions, these explanations agree with your vocabulary, and the conclusion you have come to, on the other points stated, are, in the main, corroborated by these persons ; but they agree in saying, that your distinction between Rathore (No. 2) and Dhadul (No. 7) is an error, being one and the same caste—and Runjeet informs me, that besides these seven divisions of the Bowries, there are three other classes, chiefly known to the westward of Delhi and in Marwaree, namely, Makwarries, Barriaries, and Khoelees—making altogether ten divisions. He also states that the Budhks of the Oude Turae are always Decoits ; but that many on this side confine themselves

to petty thieving, hanging on the march of parties, Brinjaras with grain, &c., and never go on regular Decoitee.

I hope I shall be able hereafter to give you many more interesting particulars relative to the habits of these classes.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

J. GRAHAM,
Asst. Commr. and Joint Magt.

AGRA,

The 19th November, 1839.

No. 142.

TO MAJOR SLEEMAN,

Commissioner, &c. &c. &c.

MORADABAD.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of your Circular letter, No. 176, of the 23d September last, I have the honor to state that I have purposely delayed an earlier reply, that I might be enabled to give you a more satisfactory answer to your queries.

The remarks contained in your Circular letter, respecting the names the different colonies pass under, according to the country they inhabit, are entirely substantiated by the statements of my approvers, as well as their divisions into castes, with the exception that my men give an additional one ("Madana") to a gang of Bagries, who originally came from Delhi, and established themselves at Manickpoor Gotra, in the Ulwur territory.

In the pronunciation of the different words enumerated in your list, it is quite absurd to observe the nicety prevailing throughout, with exception of one single word, which I have detailed below—Dhátun, the proper slang term for a knife, Neyturee and Chureeo being familiar to every one.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

W. C. BIRCH,
Asst. Commr. and Joint Magt.

ASST. COMM. JOINT MAGT.'S OFFICE,

NUSSERABAD,

24th April, 1840.

No. 101 of 1840.

TO MAJOR W. H. SLEEMAN,

Genl. Superintendent,

MORADABAD.

SIR,

With reference to your letter, No. 499, under date 26th September 1839, to the address of my immediate predecessor, Captain Burrows, in which you request him to forward copies of your Circular letter, on the subject of the peculiar dialect of the Budhuks, to my friends in Guzerat, with a view of ascertaining whether the specimen you have given, resembles any of the spoken dialects of that part of India, I have the honor to inform you, that, immediately after assuming charge of my appointment, I wrote to two of my friends in Guzerat, requesting them to use their endeavours to obtain the information sought for by you ; and although, from unavoidable circumstances, a long time elapsed without my hearing from them in reply, I am happy to be able at length to forward you the result of one friend's enquiries ; and I trust I shall soon have it in my power to send you still further information.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. REYNOLDS,

Assist. Genl. Supt.

A. G. S. OFFICE, POONA,

The 26th March, 1840.

It was proposed by some very able officers to invite in all the Decoits, and form colonies of them, upon lands for which they were to pay little or nothing at first, and only a very moderate assessment after they should have become trained to habits of industry ; but all such attempts to reclaim, by locating, men of their inveterate habits, with such an exclusive feeling and language, upon lands, in colonies, had failed, and happily Government became fully impressed with the conviction that the plan proposed by me, and followed in the suppression of the Thug associations, was that best calculated to succeed in this attempt finally to put down those of the professional Decoits—that is, to hunt them down by a simultaneous, vigorous, and well sustained pursuit through all parts of India, and thereby to break up their little communities, and compel them to blend, with the rest of mankind, in public service, or private industry, and by degrees to lose their exclusive feeling,

and forget their exclusive language. Government was satisfied, that the plan of colonizing them on waste lands, bordering upon the great forests, must, under any precautions, tend to keep up the exclusive feeling and language ; and to prevent their ever blending cordially with the rest of the community ; and to perpetuate the system of depredations, in which they had so long and so much delighted. Their women, for the sake of better food, clothing, and dress, and their leaders for more money and authority, would be for ever instigating them to return to the forests, or to add the old to the new ostensible calling ; and no degree of surveillance, practicable under our Government, and under our system of law, could have prevented them from indulging in their old sporting propensities—their old imperial trade—" Padshahee kām."

The only attempt of this kind, permitted since the superintendence was entrusted to me, was made in the Goruckpore district, and will be noticed hereafter : of its ultimate failure, I have myself no doubt, but the Magistrate and other local authorities wished to make the trial, and I did not like very urgently to oppose them, when they had all co-operated so cordially in the pursuit of the gangs. On the 24th of April 1840, the Resident at Lucknow, Colonel Caulfeild, told me, that Captain Barlow thought that Mungul Sing and his followers might be brought in on terms, and that the King had expressed his willingness to embody one thousand of them into a regiment, to be employed as a corps of Frontier Police. The Resident was in favor of this plan ; but the King's great grandfather, Shooja od Doulah, had formed, what was called the "*Wolf Regiment*," out of about twelve hundred of these Decoits, invited in from the forest under their own leaders, who were all made non-commissioned officers, of different and well paid grades. Their depredations had become intolerable throughout the Oude territories. The result of this attempt to reclaim this class of offenders, was not such as to encourage another such in that kingdom, under a sovereign of still less ability and power.

I had often heard from the Budhuks themselves of this *Wolf Regiment*; and as they seemed anxious to have the experiment again tried, I requested Captain Hollings, early in 1840, to get for me, as much as he could of the history of its "rise and fall." The Court of Oude obtained from the old Pay Master General of the forces, Kyam od Deen, the following report on the subject, which was sent to me through Captain Hollings, on the 29th May 1840, with the depositions of some of the Budhuk approvers. Had they been distributed as soldiers and non-commissioned officers among a great number of corps, and prevented from ever congregating in any considerable numbers, instead of being formed into one exclusive corps, it might not have been impossible to

reclaim them, even under such a Government as that of Oude ; but the attempt to reclaim them under such a Government when formed into one exclusive corps, was considered by me to be altogether hopeless, and as such described by me to the Resident, who moved the Court of Oude no further on the subject.

Report of the Pay Master General.

“ In the time of the Nawab Asof od Doulah, on whom be the mercy of God, a regiment of these people was raised, consisting of eight hundred men, and sent on duty to Dureeabad, under the command of Imdad Ali. After some short time they mutinied, beat their Commandant, and other officers, and turned them out of the regiment. As soon as this became known at Court, the Nawab sent a messenger, and summoned the soldiers ; and when they came, he asked, what they meant by their conduct. The men, who came to answer for the whole, were twenty Tomandars, or Serjeants, who stated, that the Commandant and other officers appointed by His Highness would not condescend to do the same duties that they did ; and that they had been obliged, in consequence, to turn them out of the corps ; and that, henceforth, they were resolved not to admit among them any officer, who would not come in to their terms.

“ The Nawab told them, that they should go off immediately to Allahabad on duty, as he could not keep in Oude so bad an example to the rest of his troops, and that he would appoint them other officers, who would follow. They went to Allahabad ; and as often as a Commandant and other officers were appointed and sent to command them, they mutinied and turned them out with all kinds of indignities, but continued to go through their duties without them. At last, Kureem Shere Khan was appointed to command the regiment ; and, for encouragement in the dangerous undertaking, he got a dress of honor on setting out to join them. He had no sooner put himself at their head at Allahabad, than they mutinied, gave him a sound drubbing, and turned him out of the corps.

“ Some time after, the Nawab transferred the province of Allahabad, by treaty, to the Hon’ble Company, A. D. 1798 ; and he entreated the British officers to undertake the disbanding of this unruly regiment. They ordered them to take all their arrears of pay, and give up their guns, colours, and all other articles belonging to the State. They said that they should surrender all these things at the Court of His Highness

the Nawab ; and the British officers, apprehensive of the consequences of attempting to take these things from them by force, paid them their arrears, and bid them return, and surrender these things to their master. They set out in a body on their return with their guns, colours, arms, and accoutrements ; and the Commanding officer notified their march to the British Resident, that he might prepare the Nawab for their approach.

“ When they reached Sudolee, the Resident sent for some of the officers of their own creation, and asked them, why they had not given up the articles belonging to the State, after they had received all their arrears of pay. They said, that they had received their arrears from the Nawab ; but as the province of Allahabad, where they had been serving, was now made over to the Hon’ble Company, they had been dismissed ; and they demanded, according to the usage of the said Company, on such occasions, their full pay for the unexpired period of the year, without any deductions whatever. When this should be paid, they would deliver up their guns, colours, and every other article belonging to the State. The Resident, to prevent further disorders, consented at last to pay them for all the time they had taken to come from Allahabad to Sudolee, and sent the money to them by his own servants. As soon as they got it, they went off to their homes, leaving the articles which belonged to the State on their ground at Sudolee. This regiment being always in a state of disorder, no regular muster rolls, or other papers, were kept or received ; and I cannot therefore send any list of the men who composed it.”

Deposition of Ramdeen, taken at Lucknow, 15th May, 1840.

There was a regiment raised in Oude, and called sometimes the Wolf, and sometimes the Tiger regiment. Fifty years ago, this regiment served at Lucknow, and at that time Almas was Minister, and in great authority. It was composed chiefly of Budhuks, but there were other men of different castes in it. Baboora, the great grand-father, and Rohal, the grand-father of Mungul Sing, who is now at the head of the Oude Turae gangs, were jemadars (commissioned officers) in that regiment. Duleea, the grand-father, and Areera, the father of Oree Naeka, who is now in the Resident’s jail at Lucknow, were in the same regiment. Chundeea, a noted Budhuk, whose tomb stands at Furruckabad, was a jemadar in that regiment ; and his great-grand-son, Chedee, is now in the Resident’s jail ; Bagee, another of his great-grand-sons, is in the same

jail. There were a great number of Budhuk jemadars in that regiment ; but Arcera never rose above the rank of a sipahee ; Bagaleea, the father of Patunga, was another of the sipahees ; Patunga died in the Kala Pahar jail, in Lucknow.

Chundeea entered into an engagement with the Nawab to prevent Decoitee by his fraternity, from Calcutta to Dehli. The grand-father of Kulwun Jemadar, who is now in the Resident's jail at Lucknow, (I forget his name) went with a gang to Bengal to attack a despatch of treasure—Chundeea heard of it, and set out with a detachment of his corps to prevent his doing so. They had a fight, and Chundeea saved the treasure. What became of the regiment at last, I know not—I know not who was Nawab at that time ; but the eunuch Almas was Prime Minister. I have been confined for fourteen years ; and whether there are any of our fraternity now in the King's service, I know not.

Deposition of Bodhoo, of the burned hand, 15th May, 1840.

About eighty or ninety years ago, when the Nawab Shooja-od-Doulah reigned over Oude, and Almas was Prime Minister, the Wolf regiment was raised—Duleepa, Roosul, Putunga, and Mehwater, Bagaleea, the grand-fathers and great-grand-fathers of Ghazee approver, were in that regiment ; and my uncle Gomanee was an officer (jemadar) in it, so was Laloo Budhuk, the Rathore. It was the duty of this regiment to save the dominions of Oude from Decoitee—to this they were pledged. Some of the men of this corps were killed, others died a natural death, and the rest returned to Decoitee, when there was no body to look after them. Kunhey and Buldeo, now at Moradabad, know a good deal about the history of this corps. Ruteeram, the father of Bukshee, who was killed by Mehndoo Khan, knows a good deal about it ; he is now in the Resident's jail. Nusseeba, the father of Ghureeba, who afterwards became an approver at Bareilly, was himself in this corps, but he is now dead. Lala was the chief officer ; but Newul, Rasal, and Putunga, were also men of rank ; but the Minister himself, the eunuch Almas, was the real Commandant.

Deposition of Ghureeba, Buldeo, and Kunhey.

A regiment was raised by the Nawab of Oude, Shooja-od-Doulah, out of the Budhuks, and called the Bhereea, or Wolf regiment—it was fourteen hundred strong. The sipahees had each twelve, and the jemadars fifteen rupees a month, and the Commandant had two hundred and fifty.

It was kept up during the whole reign of his son, Asuf-od-Doulah, and the short one of his adopted son Wuzeer Alee. When he was dethroned, the regiment dispersed, his successor, Sadut Alee, took no care of them. In the reign of his son, Ghazee-od-Deen Hyder, Tara Sing, one of our chiefs, recommended his associates to give in a petition, to say, "that we were people of ancient and illustrious descent, and hoped he would again form us into a regiment." A petition was drawn up accordingly, and presented to the King—he was out, taking his ride at the shrine of the saint Bodalee, near Lucknow—Dhoonee Beg, the superintendent of the city police, told his influential friends about court, that if this corps were raised, the whole police of the city would be made over to it ; and he and they would become nothing. They put their heads together, and prevented the King from raising the corps.

Two or three years after this, Tara Sing committed a Decoitee upon the house of the great Court banker, Sa Becaree Lall ; and when no trace could be found of the perpetrators, the King sent off and got the family of Tara Sing seized, and offered a reward for his apprehension. He was a notorious leader of our clan, and suspicion fell upon him. Tara Sing went and threw himself upon the protection of the Minister Agameer. He presented him to the King, who gave him a dress of honor of five pieces, and treated him with great consideration. He told his Majesty of the great advantages that had attended the raising of such a corps during the reign of his ancestors, and orders were forthwith given to raise it again. They commenced recruiting, but had not completed, when Tara Sing was assassinated by order of Nowaj Sing, the jemadar of hurcarus, to whom he had lent the sum of six thousand rupees to pave his way at Court—he got him put to death, to avoid the necessity of re-paying him. All recruiting ceased ; and our friends dispersed and returned to their old trade—some went to Agra, some to Koel, and some to other places.

A true translation,

(Signed) W. H. SLEEMAN.

While we were engaged in collecting and recording all the information required, to ensure success in the undertaking on which we had entered, all our available means were employed in pursuit of the offenders, who had been denounced upon what were deemed sufficient grounds. The detached parties, under native officers, had orders—1st, not to arrest any person, but such as were named in lists furnished to them by the European officer, under whom they were employed—2nd, not to release any person once arrested, till he had been taken before the Magistrate, or other local authority of the district, in which the arrest

had taken place—3rd, to make over the arrested person to the charge of that authority on his receipt ; or to take him to the officer, by whom the arresting party had been detached, should such local authorities so direct—4th, not to search any house for stolen property, without special instructions from the local authorities to do so, lest they might abuse their authority, or neglect the pursuit of criminals. The only departure from these rules permitted, was the arrest of any notorious Decoit met by the arresting party in a different division or circle, from that in which he usually resided, and consequently omitted in the lists furnished to the arresting parties of that circle. This latitude was at first indispensably necessary, for the arresting parties often met gangs on the roads, going out on expeditions, or returning from them ; and had to pursue others from the Oude Turac into the lower parts of Bengal, and from the river Chumbul, near Gwalior, into the remotest parts of Guzerat, and the Hyderabad territories. One arresting party pursued a gang of these Decoits, under Bhowanny, a noted leader, from Alwur, through Rajpootana, Malwa, and Guzerat, across the Gulf of Kutch ; and some of the members of the gang, who, after passing through the Hyderabad territory in their flight, attempted to pass up through Bengal into Oude, were arrested in the Burdwan district, by Major Riddell, an officer of the department, acting under the orders of Mr. Dampier, the Superintendent of Police in Bengal.

Captain Hollings, the Adjutant of the 2nd Regiment, Oude Auxiliary Force, stationed at Seetapoor, had ably assisted Captain Paton in collecting information, through some intelligencers sent into the forest in disguise, among the Decoit colonies, and through Moonshee Kuramut Ali Khan, the Superintendent, on the part of the King of Oude, of the road leading from Lucknow through Seetapoor to Shahjehanpore in our territory of Rohilcund. This intelligent native officer had taken an interest in these enquiries, and collected a good deal of valuable information about them, while engaged in his duties on the road ; and Noor Begh, the native assistant of my predecessor, had been engaged in the same enquiries, and was now employed under Captain Paton. The subjoined list shows the result of all these enquiries as regarded the colonies then located in the Oude forest, and it is, I believe, a tolerably correct one.

In the case of Decoits by profession, as in that of the Thugs, the necessity of collecting, at one point, judicial proof, sufficient to ensure their conviction for a specific Decoitee, was found to involve so much of trouble and loss to the persons, who had suffered most from their crimes, that the necessity of making Act XXX. of 1836, which had been passed by the Legislative Council of India for Thugs, applicable also to professional Decoits, became manifest, in the early part of our proceed-

ings, to those best acquainted with the difficulties we had to contend with. This Act rendered any person, who should be convicted of "having belonged to a gang of Thugs, liable to the penalty of imprisonment for life ; and any person, accused of the offence, made punishable by the Act, liable to be tried by any Court, which would have been competent to try him, if his offence had been committed within the district where that Court sits ;" and dispensed with the Futwa of the Mahommudun Law officer. To convict a person of having belonged to a gang of Thugs, it was necessary to prove, not only that he belonged to a colony, or family, of Thugs, but that he had been actually out on a Thug expedition, with a gang of Thugs, by whom murders had been perpetrated, and taken a part in their proceedings.

In both cases, the gang proceeded many hundred miles from their homes to commit their crimes ; and to convict them of the specific offence, it was necessary to bring the persons, who had suffered, from these distant points, to appear against them in the Courts to which they were to be finally committed for trial. To avoid the great loss and inconvenience, which the necessity of this attendance involved, it was found that the sufferers did all in their power to conceal their sufferings, and often denied that they had ever been attacked, when the dearest members of their families had been killed or wounded, and all they had in the world had been carried off. In consequence, Act XXIV of 1843, was passed by the Legislative Council, declaring Act XXX of 1836, applicable to Decoits by profession, as well as to Thugs. So were Acts XVIII of 1837, which declared "any person charged with murder by Thuggee, "or with the offence of having belonged to a gang of Thugs, liable "to be committed by any Magistrate or Joint Magistrate within the "territories of the Hon'ble East India Company, for trial, before any "Criminal Court, competent to try such offences ;" and Act XVIII of 1839, which declared "any person accused of the offence of murder by "Thuggee, or of the offence of unlawfully and knowingly receiving "or buying property, stolen or plundered by Thuggee, liable to be tried "by any Court, which would have been competent to try him, if his "offence had been committed within the district where that Court sits." The passing of this Act tended to relieve the sufferers from all apprehension, and to prevent any attempt on their part to conceal what they had suffered from the depredations of these offenders by hereditary profession.

It was also found, that a number of robbers and murderers by profession, who had been sentenced to imprisonment by Courts, in which the European covenanted servants, accredited to the several Native Courts, were among the presiding Judges, had been permitted to escape from

the prisons in Native States, where they were confined, either from the negligence or connivance of the guards, or the wish of the officers of such Courts, to avoid the cost of maintaining them ; and to secure full success to the measures adopted by the Supreme Government for their entire suppression, it became necessary to provide against such risks in future. Those who escaped, not only returned to their trade of robbery and murder, but sought, with avidity, every opportunity of wreaking their vengeance upon all who had been in any way instrumental in their arrest or conviction, in order to deter others from doing the same in future. It was, in consequence, deemed necessary to provide effectually for the safe custody of offenders, confined under such sentences ; and Act XVIII of 1843 was passed by the Legislative Council, declaring “ that all prisoners, convicted in Native States, by a tribunal, in which an “ European covenanted servant was one of the presiding Judges, might “ be received in our jails to undergo their sentence.”

Another, Act V of 1847, directed “ that officers, in charge of jails “ in the territories of the Hon’ble East India Company, were competent to “ give effect to any sentence passed by any Court established by the authority of the Governor General in Council, although in States or territories, “ not subject to the Government of any one of the three Presidencies, or “ not subject to the general regulations—that a warrant, under the seal “ and signature of the officer, exercising criminal jurisdiction within “ such States, should be considered sufficient authority for holding such “ prisoner in confinement, or for transmitting him for transportation “ beyond seas, or for inflicting any other punishment prescribed therein “ —that if any officer in charge of a jail should have any doubt as to “ the legality of the warrant, or competence of the person to pass the “ sentence and issue such warrant, he should refer the matter to Government, and retain the prisoner, pending its final orders.” But the imprisonment, in British territories, of any other offenders than such as have been convicted of Thuggee or Decoitee, and thus come under Act XVIII of 1843, is not considered legal under sentences passed by the officers of a foreign state, except under a state warrant according to the provisions of Regulation III of 1818. It was found necessary to limit the transfer of prisoners to such as should be sentenced by a tribunal, in which a British covenanted officer is one of the presiding Judges ; and should be convicted of the offences, made punishable by the two above Acts, XXX of 1836, and XXIV of 1843, in order that no Native State might make use of it for political or personal purposes. Copies of all the Acts, which have been passed by the Legislative Council of India, to enable Government the better to relieve society from the depredations of all these associations of murderers and robbers by hereditary profession, will be found among the appendices.

CHAPTER X.

Rajah Dan Sing, of Tolseepoor, the Rajahs of Binga and Bankee, the Ranee of Pudeenaha, Rajahs Gunga Ram Sa, of Khyreegur, and Arjun Sing, of Dhorehra, were all in league, *offensive and defensive*, with Mungul Sing and the other Decoit leaders, who were located in the Oude forest, from Majgowa south-east to Khyreegur north-west, for a distance of one hundred and fifty miles, and doing their utmost to screen them from pursuit ; and in return deriving assistance from them against the Government authorities. Rajah Arjun Sing, the son of the late Murund Sing, of Dhorehra, was a lad, in the hands of the minister and guardian Bhowanee Sing, a notorious patron of the Budhuk gangs, whom he supported with a party of three hundred armed men. This man, Bhowanec Sing, was afterwards arrested, and is now in the Lucknow jail, under a sentence of fourteen years' imprisonment.

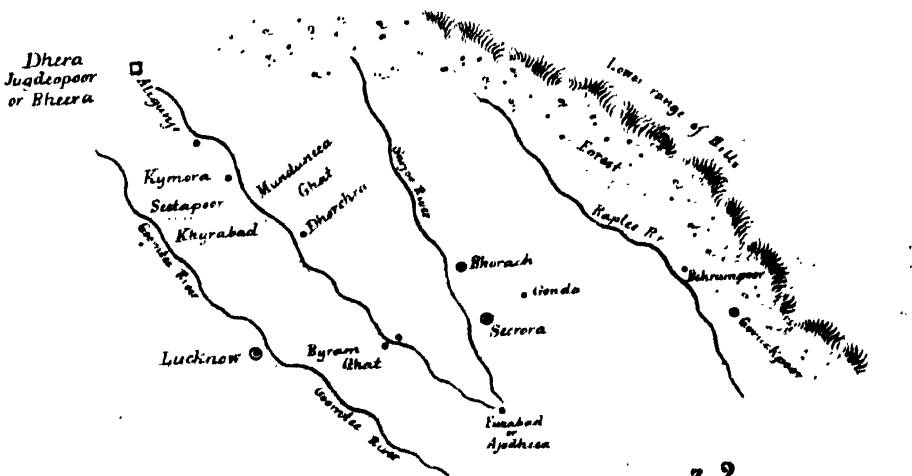
In the month of April 1839, Captain Hollings, Adjutant 2d Regiment Oude Auxiliary Force, sent an intelligencer, named Chundal Sing, in disguise, to reconnoitre the position of Mungul Sing's colonies beyond the Mutecara ferry on the Ghogra ; and, on the 1st of May, he returned and stated, that he had been among them in the disguise of a shop-keeper, with various articles to dispose of, which he exposed for sale in the midst of the gang—that he went through Dhorehra, distant from their position about sixteen miles, to the Muteeara Ghat, a mile further on, and not far from the bank of the river Ghogra, where he made up his basket of sugar and other articles for sale. He learnt that the three bivouacs of the Budhuks had two market days a week, and he accompanied some six or seven other shop-keepers going to one of these markets—he remained for two hours among the Decoits, talked freely with them, and sold his goods—his stall was near the house of Dhurma, the leader of the gang, which had recently returned from the attack upon the town of Chupra, in December 1838 ; and Buktouree, his wife, a stout woman, of about forty-five years of age, with fine large eyes, came up to them, and said to her old friends the shop-keepers, whom Chundal Sing had accompanied—" The one thousand rupees, which I got as my share " in the late affair (alluding to that of Chupra) have all been expended ; " but, in two or three days, I expect a large party of friends to join in the " worship of Davey. Mungul Sing, and other distinguished persons with

“ their trains, will be among my guests on this occasion, and you must provide me with sugar, the other requisites for the feast I have already collected.” The shop-keepers promised faithfully to execute her orders: Dhurma himself, a stout man of about fifty years of age, was going into the forest to shoot, and said nothing—he had nothing but a cloth about his waist, with his powder flask tied to it, and a matchlock upon his naked shoulder—as he passed, he said to his wife, “ I am going to look for some game”—the women mixed freely among the men, and each had from forty to fifty rupees’ worth of ornaments upon her person, of the fashion of the south of India ; and among themselves they spoke a language quite different from that of the surrounding country—they had no trade and cultivated no land ; but still seemed to have abundance of money, and the people of the villages around spoke of them as banditti, who go forth sometimes to the distance of five or six hundred miles, and return with great booty, before the rains set in. One of the women, by name Gunga, came up to Chundal Sing to purchase something, and said, “ My husband was seized by Mehnoo Khan, in the attack he made upon us, and is now in jail at Lucknow—I was seized with him, but released by the Minister, Hakeem Mehndee, as an act of thanksgiving—perhaps you have some friends at Lucknow, who may assist me in getting him out of prison.” Chundal Sing promised to do all he could. He found the three bivouacs of the banditti, in the forest called “ Bunder Baja,” from the number of monkeys that inhabited it—one was named “ Bugleen,” about six miles from the river, and contained about seventy-five men, with their women and children—the second named “ Nowsurgow,” close on the bank of the Ghogra river, contained about two hundred and fifty men, under the chief leader, Mungul Sing. Here Chundal Sing opened his shop the second day, and saw the leader surrounded by about thirty armed men as his guards—they paid for what they purchased, in rupees of the Company’s coinage, acquired in their different expeditions into our territories, and such money was current among no other class—Mungul Sing was a fine young man of about thirty-five years of age, with large eyes, and fine form, and very courteous in his deportment—he sold him some sugar, and found him ready to pay liberally, in order to encourage people to come—all his followers addressed him respectfully, but without servility—the people told him that about two months before, the Governor of the district had taken the estate from Rajah Arjun Sing, a lad of ten or twelve years of age, and given it to Rajah Omrow Sing at an enhanced rate. Arjun Sing fled to the forest with two thousand armed followers, and all the banditti turned out to support his cause, for he had always protected them upon the estate, on condition of receiving from them one quarter of their spoils—their united force was too formidable for the Governor, and he was obliged to restore the estate.

The third bivouac was in two hamlets, Dürmagow and Durnargow, adjoining each other, and contained about one hundred and fifty Decoits, and was distant from Nowsurgow, about three miles. The second wife of the leader Dhurma presided over this colony, having quarrelled with the first wife, and obliged her to go to another. Here Chundal Sing opened his third shop—he thought that the whole could be reached from Seetapoor in three night marches. All looked up to Mungul Sing as their chief leader. Such colonies find it necessary to have a leader or two, who can take their places on equal terms with the landed and official aristocracy of the country ; and they readily contribute all the means, and all the external marks of respect required for the purpose, since they exalt themselves in exalting their leaders to such positions. In a late marriage between the daughter of Rajah Gungaram Sa, of Khyreegur, and Rajah Arjun Sing, of Dhorehra, a formal invitation had been sent to Mungul Sing and the other leaders of these gangs, to assist at the ceremonies ; and they went as well, and as respectfully attended; as the highest of the landed aristocracy of the country.

On the 9th of April 1839, Colonel Roberts, commanding the Regular Brigade of the King of Oude's troops, was directed by Captain Paton, under instructions from His Majesty the King of Oude, and the British Resident, Colonel Caulfeild, to send a detachment of five hundred sipahees, under the best officer he could select for the purpose, to attack these colonies. They were located within the border of the Oude Turae forest, on the right bank of the Gogra river, about Dhera Jugdeopoor, *alias* Bheera, as noted in the subjoined rough sketch of the country. Two hundred Cavalry were to be added to the detachment, with a Native

NOTE.—Sketch of the positions of the Bheera and Dhorehra colonies of Budhuk Decoits, as they stood in the beginning of May 1839.



officer, and intelligencers from my office, who had become well acquainted with these colonies, and their habits. The King of Oude's "furman," or warrant, for the attack, was forwarded with these instructions to Secrora, to Colonel Roberts, who was to send the detachment on from its station at *Gonda*, which was one hundred miles from the bivouac of the Decoits, to *Bharaetch*, which was only sixty, there to await further information from some intelligencers of Captain Paton's, who were still among them in disguise. The "furman," addressed to Colonel Roberts, set forth that—"as it is the anxious desire of the royal presence to seize certain banditti, or Decoits, whose history is well known to the British Resident and his first Assistant, who will communicate to you in writing all particulars regarding them, you are commanded, instantly on receiving instructions from them, to proceed to attack these robbers, and to make every possible exertion to capture them, and transmit them, vigilantly guarded, to the palace gates, in our capital at Lucknow."

On the 7th of May, Captain Barlow, who commanded the detachment, writes to Captain Paton, "that he had proceeded by regular stages from *Gonda* to *Kaimara*, crossing the *Sarjeo* at *Secrora*, and the *Gogra* river at the *Byram Ghat* ferry, as the direct road was much intercepted by small tributary streams, many of which could not be forded, and were unprovided with ferry boats for the passage of his Artillery; and on Sunday, the 5th of that month, having received information from the intelligencers, that the whole of the banditti were present in the colonies, which he had to attack, he left *Kaimara* at three in the afternoon, and marching the rest of the day, and the whole of the night, reached the position half an hour before day-break; but the greater part of the gang had gone off, and he was able to secure only seventeen persons—three men, five women, and nine children." The Cavalry had been placed on the plain to receive the Decoits, while the Infantry moved round to cut them off from the forest at their back, to the north; but the wary robbers had got timely information, and escaped into the jungles. They found the four hamlets, which they had occupied, deserted by all, but the seventeen persons above mentioned; and, thinking it would be useless to pursue them in so dense and extensive a jungle, Captain Barlow set out on his return at half past six in the morning, and returned to *Aleegunge* at sun-set that evening, having marched forty miles, without rest or refreshment, and become quite exhausted.

On the 5th of May, 1839, the day on which Captain Barlow had moved against the above colony, occupying four hamlets on the border of the forest, Colonel Caulfield, the Resident, on the receipt from Captain

Paton, of the report of Captain Hollings' intelligencer, Chundal Sing, and those of others, who had been sent in disguise to reconnoitre the same colonies by Captain Paton, sent orders to Captain Sturt, commanding the 2d Regiment Oude Auxiliary Force at Seetapoor, to march and attack the three colonies under Mungul Sing, with all his available means. They were located on the left bank of the Gogra river, about the Munduneea Ghat, or ferry over that river, and Dhorehra. On the 18th of that month, Captain Sturt reports the result of that movement.

On the 7th, he left Seetapoor, with the Head Quarters of his regiment, consisting of five hundred sipahees, with due proportion of officers, and furnished with fifty rounds of ammunition, and reached Lahurpoor, distant twenty miles, at 10 P. M. On the 8th, he marched sixteen miles to Belowra; at day-break on the 9th, he reached Dhorehra. He had heard of the protection afforded to the robbers by the Governor of that place, Omrow Sing, and the Amil, or Deputy Governor, Shekh Ahmud Alee, and the other local authorities, Bhowanee Sing, and Wahaj-od-Deen, the commandant of a regiment of Irregular Infantry at that place, and was here told by them, that the gangs had heard of his approach, and retired towards the forest. After some conversation with the Governor, Deputy Governor, and Commandant, he moved on to Mutteera, where he encamped at 9 A. M. on the 9th. He had not met at Dhorehra, Bhowanee Sing, the Minister of Rajah Arjun Sing, upon whose estate the Decoits were located; and he now sent a letter to invite him to his camp; but aware that he was justly suspected of protecting these gangs, he did not attend, or send any reply. He received, from none of the local authorities, the attentions required and demanded from them, by him, in the name of the King of Oude, under whose authority he had been sent. The Governor, Omrow Sing, had promised to visit him again that day at Mutteera, and furnish him with fifty Nujeebs for the protection of his camp, while he was in pursuit of the gangs across the Gogra, but he neither came, nor sent these men, urging indisposition as his excuse.

Captain Sturt, on the 9th, heard at Mutteera, that the gangs had, on the 5th, retired from their positions on the opposite of the Gogra towards the forest in their rear. Disappointed in this hope of surprising them, he still determined to move on, in the hope of overtaking some of their parties; and on the 10th, at half past three in the morning, he left his camp standing, and advanced; but on reaching the bank of the Gogra at day-break, he found that the river had risen greatly, from the heavy rain which fell during the night; and that, instead of the eight ferry boats, which he had been led to expect, there were only three, and these of the most wretched description, two being, each formed of two small canoes, lashed together. In consequence, he could not embark

more than ninety men at a time ; and it was ten o'clock, before all reached the opposite bank. He then advanced upon Dhurun Sing's position, which he reached at noon. He found all their huts empty ; and was told by the cowherds, who inhabited the neighbouring village of Bagaleen, that the Decoits had gone off to the jungles four days before. He then advanced to Mungul Sing's position, which he reached at three o'clock, and found it deserted in the same manner. He heard, from the people of the neighbouring villages of Munduneea, Sirjoulee, and Neeamut Khan's bustee, that Mungul Sing, with all his followers, had retired into the jungles four days before. In Dhurun Sing's position, he found only forty empty houses or huts ; but in that of Mungul Sing's, he found seven hundred. He found in them an abundance of grain, grass, fuel, and freshly gathered mint, indicating, that the flight of the robbers, must have been suddenly decided upon, and carried into effect.

Every person they met, appeared to be familiarly acquainted with the character and habits of these gangs, who did not seem to have made any secret of their way of life. Captain Sturt halted at Nowsurgow on the 11th, and having heard that some of the robbers had resided in the village of Munduneea, he gave orders to have the houses they had occupied searched. Some rupees, and female ornaments, were found in these houses, with a good many papers relating to the affairs of the gangs, together with their accountant, Bheekun Sing, who managed all their accounts. A great number of baskets, in which Ganges water is carried, furnished with their little bottles, and every other requisite, were found in the deserted huts. Bheekun Sing's brother, Gyadeen Sing, was arrested with the papers.

Captain Sturt intended to halt another day, amid the deserted bivouacs of the Decoits at Nowsurgow, to collect further information regarding them, from the surrounding villages ; but on the night of the 11th, a severe storm came on, the sky threatened a long continuance of bad weather, the river Gogra was rising rapidly, and the water becoming quite black from the putrid vegetable matter, which it brought along with it from the hills ; and he recrossed the river on the 13th, on his way back to his cantonments at Seetapoor. He found the information given by Chundal Sing, regarding the several positions of the colonies, quite correct, and the map he had made of the country occupied by them excellent in all respects, showing exactly the obstacles to be contended with in the attack, such as rivers, ravines, and water courses. Having set fire to all the huts occupied by the Decoits in their several bivouacs, he left Nowsurgow at four o'clock, on the morning of the 12th, re-crossed the river Gogra, and reached his camp at Muteeara, about noon. Here he found that no supplies whatever had been provided for his force by

the Oude authorities, although he had written to the Governor of Dhorehra to request that he would have them ready.

On the morning of the 13th, at three o'clock, he left Muteeara, and reached, at eight o'clock, Dhorehra, where he was visited by the Governor, Omrow Sing, and the Amil, his deputy, who confirmed the report, that Bhowanee Sing, the Minister of Rajah Arjun Sing, had gone off, with all his followers and office, to avoid meeting him, and had frequently been to Nowsurgow to visit Mungul Sing, the chief of the Decoit gangs, granted him a farm of the lands around his bivouacs, and associated with him on the most familiar terms—that he had conveyed to him the intelligence of all Captain Sturt's movements, and always kept an intelligencer in the Seetapoor cantonments, to give him the earliest information of any movement of the troops—that he got from the Decoits a share of one-fourth of their booty, and acted as their general agent and banker, and supplied them with grain, when required. All this was confirmed by the papers found, and the testimony of Gyadeen Sing, the brother of Mungul Sing's accountant, Bheekum Sing.

I may here mention, that those who live on the banks of the rivers, flowing from the chain of the Himmaleh Mountains, and the Vindeya and Sathpoor ranges of hills, and drink their water, suffer much from diseases produced by the putrid vegetable matter, with which they become impregnated, whenever they rise suddenly, after a long period of dry weather, in the manner described by Captain Sturt. These hills are all covered by dense foliage, and during the dry season, many of the streams, which supply the larger rivers, cease to flow ; but they have all numerous pools, which become black from the leaves, which fall into them from the overhanging trees, and become putrid. When rain falls again, this black water is carried into the rivers, which become great sources of disease all along their course, till they reach the flat and sandy plains, such as those over which the Ganges flows. Along the valley of the Nerbudda, which is bordered by the Sathpoor range to the south, and the Vindeya range to the north, much sickness arises from the waters of their tributary streams ; and the water of those, which flow north and east from the Vindeya range into the Jumna, is hardly considered safe during the rains, in any part of their course, till they reach that river. The circumstance is not sufficiently attended to in fixing upon sites for cantonments, towns, and hamlets. The water of many of the canals, which pass from the Himmaleh Mountains through the Dehra Doon, and other valleys extending along under them, is very unwholesome from this cause ; and as there are large beds of these putrid leaves under the surface, the water, which percolates through them into the wells of neighbouring villages, is no less so. Much of the

disease, which is attributed to the malaria of these valleys, arises, I believe, in reality from this water. Another source of disease, among, and under these ranges of hills, is to be found in the water which percolates through the coal measures, which are so numerous under the sandstone that abounds in all these ranges. In the dry season, before the rains set in, the water in the wells, bordering upon these coal measures, becomes covered with a crust of petroleum.

Captain Sturt had reason to believe, that the Nujeebs sent with him, by the commandant of the Battalion at Dhorehra, were spies. They were altogether useless to him ; and he found many of them on duty at the villages bordering upon the Budhuk colonies, though they had never sent any information about them to Lucknow. He found Bhowanee Sing's father-in-law, Durum Dull, residing at the village of Sirjoulee, close by one of the bivouacs of the Decoits, and in affluent circumstances, having become wealthy, in his trade of banker and money changer, with the robbers. The papers found, with the depositions of all from whom information had been obtained, were sent off to Captain Paton, at Lucknow, together with the few prisoners taken in the enterprize ; and they were of great use to him in the enquiries into the character, number, and habits of these gangs, in which he was then busily engaged. Captain Sturt mentioned, in terms of high praise, the valuable assistance he had received from Lieutenant Hollings, his Adjutant, who had been long engaged in collecting information regarding these gangs, with Moonshee Kureem Ahmad, the Superintendent of the line of road leading east from Lucknow to Shahjehanpore, who accompanied him in his enterprize, and rendered good service in recording the information obtained from the prisoners and inhabitants of neighbouring villages. Copies of Captains Sturt's and Barlow's reports, with the correspondence that passed on these occasions, and the depositions of prisoners and intelligencers, were forwarded by Captain Paton to the Commissioner, whose head quarters were at Moradabad, in Rohilcund.

The colonies under Mungul, Dhurmoo, Duleea, Someyra, and other leaders, having been driven to the eastward from the thickets, about Khyreegur and Dhorehra, the western border of the Oude Turae, took up a very strong position at Kalee Tal, on a branch of the Surjoo river, on the border of the Nanpora and Charda districts. They were about one thousand able bodied Decoits, three hundred and fifty of whom carried fire-arms. They had lately been joined by Duleea's gang, with all the booty acquired in the attacks on Beteeah and Nathpoor ; and by Bhowanee Sing, the Minister of the young Rajah Arjun Sing, of Dhorehra, who had lately married the daughter of Gungaram Sa, Rajah of Khyreegur. Bhowanee Sing had with him three hundred armed men, and was now in a state of open resistance to the Oude Government.

It was determined to attack these gangs by four detachments, of from two to four hundred fighting men each, from the troops available at Seetapoor in Oude, under Captain Hollings, and four other officers in the King of Oude's service ; one party, under Captain Hollings, to move round to the south, through Bharseeh to Charda, on the east of the position, and cut them off from the river Rabtee, which borders the Oude territory to the east—the second, under Captain Barlow, to move to Nanparah, sixteen miles to the south of the position—the third, under Captain Worsley, to move to Dhurmapoor, fourteen miles to the north-west of the position—the fourth, under Captain Need, to move to Pudunaha, sixteen miles to the north of the position.

The movements were all made precisely as intended, up to the morning of the 10th of May 1840, with this exception, that Captain Hollings, on the 9th, hearing at Bharaitch, that Captain Barlow was at Nanparah, and likely to be opposed to at least two thousand of the banditti, moved to reinforce him there, instead of proceeding to Charda, to cut off the retreat of the gangs, as he had intended. All the detachments were at their respective posts on the morning of the 10th, Captains Hollings and Barlow, at Nanparah, Captain Worsley, at Dhurmapoor, and Captain Need, at Pudunaha, all ready to concentrate upon the robbers, who still occupied their position at Kalee Tal. They were to close in upon them on the 11th, and make the attack when proper. The Rajahs of Toolseepoor and Charda were to cut them off from the Nepaul territory, by guarding all the passes to the river Rabtee east ; but it was reported that Jodee Sing, the son of the Rajah of Charda, had become the bosom friend of Mungul Sing, and that Munowar Khan, the Rajah of Nanparah, was disposed to assist him. The concentrated movement upon the gang was deferred till the night of the 12th, when Captains Barlow and Hollings had united at Nanparah.

Captain Barlow had some days before, from Dhorehra, sent on Futteh Alea to negotiate with the banditti, for a surrender, on such terms as he had been authorized to offer ; and he returned with two letters, and five of the principal women, as ambassadors, among whom was the wife of one of the leaders, Dhurmoo, the cousin of the chief leader, Mungul Sing ; and they left Captains Hollings and Barlow at Nanparah on the night of the 10th, with a promise to prevail upon the whole body to surrender ; and the Nanparah and other Rajahs promised to seize the whole, if they did not, as they could not reach the fords over the Rabtee river, without crossing over the plains of the Toolseepoor district, held by a Chief, named Dhun Bahader. Captain Hollings sent off a party of sipahees under a Havildar to the local agent of this Chief, with a letter, requesting him to have the passes to the river through that district well guarded ;

and he replied, that he had received orders to the same effect from his master, and would see that they were well executed.

Information was received, that a marriage was to take place among the colonies, and that they intended to move off towards the Rabtee, at midnight, after the ceremonies ; but relying upon the promises of the Oude landholders, and other local authorities, to intercept them, and upon those of the women to induce them to surrender on the terms offered, no advance upon them was made till the night of the 12th. Captain Worsley moved on the left, Lieutenant Rotton on the centre, and Captain Hollings on the right. On reaching the village of Bujbajeea, in the Charda jungle, on the morning of the 13th, Captain Worsley found, that the colony, under Mungul Sing, had been carousing there for the last two days on the occasion of the marriage ; and had moved on at midnight, with great noise and pomp, over a plain of five miles in extent, towards the river, through the Gorela pass, near the village of Bureea, which was guarded by two hundred of Dhun Bahader's men. After parleying for a short time with this guard, they had been allowed to pass on unmolested over the river Rabtee. Mungul Sing had gone on some days before to make terms with the Nepaul authorities. All four detachments reached the river without finding a man, and were told by the local authorities, that they had passed along the bank of the river, unobserved by them. All the chief landholders and their armed retainers were in league with the robbers, whom they were afraid to displease, lest they should find shelter with their neighbours, and plunder them and their cultivators ; and Captain Hollings complains, that our people could get no information regarding their movements, as the peasantry and villagers generally were afraid, that, if they gave any, either the robbers themselves, or their patrons, would punish them for so doing. Disappointed in his plan of attack, Captain Hollings now addressed a letter to the Governor of the Nepaul district of Palpa, requesting that he would secure the banditti, who had taken up a new position in his district, and within six miles of his residence, and retain them till orders came from Katmandoo, for their surrender. In the evening, Captain Hollings re-crossed the Rabtee, and the next morning returned to Charda. During this time, Captain Barlow, with his own detachment, and a strong party of the Rajah of Nanparah's men, went in pursuit of the other colony under Duleela, *alias* Duleea, which had gone north towards the Nepaul hills, and he followed them for two days in vain. Captain Need left Pudunaha on the morning of the 12th, and marched forty miles to Bankee, and thence to Buseea, or the Rabtee, where he met Captain Hollings, on his return, on the morning of the 14th.

Captain Need returned the same day to Bankee, and Captain Hollings to Charda, when he got a reply from the Nepaul Local Governor

stating that he would do what was required. Captain Hollings requested him to turn the robbers back across the Rabtee, and he would undertake to secure them. Expecting he would do so, Captain Hollings sent Captain Need and Lieutenant Rotton, with their detachments, to the ford over the Rabtee to receive them, on the 15th, and soon after proceeded to join them at that place. They found that the robbers had gone some six miles into the Nepaul hills, to get still further beyond their reach ; and as the weather had become bad for such operations in the forest, Captain Hollings withdrew all his parties and retired.

On the 17th, Captain Hollings received orders from the Resident at Lucknow to aid Captain Barlow in the arrest of Jodee Sing, the Rajah of Charda's son, who had exchanged turbans with Mungul Sing, in token of friendship, and sealed it, by making over to him, to be tortured, some of Captain Barlow's belted intelligencers. They surrounded his fort, which soon surrendered ; but Jodee Sing had made off to the jungles, and could not be taken. All the property found in the fort was taken, and sent to Lucknow, to be confiscated. On the 19th, the force returned to Nanparah, where it was broken up and sent to cantonments. It was urged in defence of the Chiefs of Nanparah, Charda, and Toolseepoor, who had cordially assisted the robbers, that they did not think that the British Government was sufficiently in earnest to sustain the attack upon the gangs for any time ; and that, if they had been taken upon their estates, the Oude Government would have attempted to confiscate them, on the ground that they had given shelter to them. One of Captain Barlow's detachments had succeeded in arresting Maharaj, the nephew of the deceased leader Bukshee, and two followers ; but the landholders assembled in a body and rescued them.

This enterprize failed, because the plan was too complicated for the scene of operations, and the strength of the force. Each detachment was too small to act by itself against the formidable band they had to attack ; and the difficulty of communicating with each other from such distant points, over such a forest, was too great, to insure united action when occasion required. Had they gone together, and as fast as they could, to the point indicated, they might possibly have come upon the colonies, and destroyed, or secured, a great part of them, as Mehndoo Khan and Mehndee Alee Khan had done before by the same simple plan—the only plan ever likely to succeed on such occasions. There was another fault—too much confidence was reposed in the promise of the Oude landholders, and other local authorities, to co-operate cordially in the pursuit, which prevented any detachment being sent on to intercept the banditti, as they moved on over the Toolseepoor plain, towards the ferries and fords of the Rabtee ; and there was too much confidence

in the promises of the female *ambassadors*, to persuade their husbands and followers to surrender on the terms offered, which they had no intention whatever of doing. Their object was to gain time and information, and they succeeded in gaining all that they required of both. On the 11th, Captain Hollings writes to Lieutenant Hayes—"the Nanparah Rajah has joined us, the other local authorities are in a great fright, and Mungul Sing is surrounded, and he and all his followers are thinking of surrendering themselves." Captain Barlow wrote on the 11th, "that Futtch Alee, whom he had some days before sent on to the banditti from Dhorehra, had returned with two letters and five women, to negotiate a surrender;" and on the same day Captain Hollings wrote from the same place, "that the women had returned to their friends with a promise to prevail upon them to surrender; but on the 10th, he had written to say, that there was to be a wedding that day among the colonies, and that they were, according to report, to decamp at midnight, after the ceremonies were over; and that he could not, after the long march he had made, go on in time to prevent their doing so. Had they moved on together on the night of the 10th or 11th, much might have been done. Every officer, however, did his best; and the result of the best planned movement after such people, in such a forest, must always be very uncertain."

As soon as the Resident at Katmandoo, Mr. Hodgson, heard from the Lucknow Resident, Colonel Caulfeild, of the flight of the colonies into the Nepaul territory, he procured orders from the Court to the Governors of Palpa, and the rest of the western districts of Nepal, enjoining them to co-operate cordially with the British authorities, in the suppression of both Thug and Decoit gangs. These orders were sent to Captain Hollings on the 28th of May.

On the 9th of June, Mr. Hodgson wrote to request, that I would direct Captain Hollings to proceed to the Nepaul frontier, and receive charge of Mungul Sing and his followers, should the authorities of that State be prepared to make them over to him; but Colonel Caulfeild, to whom a copy of the letter had been sent, dated 17th June, stated that Captain Hollings' force had been broken up, and sent into cantonments, as the rains had set in, and the forest was too unhealthy for the movement of troops within it; but he was prepared to place some of the King of Oude's troops at his disposal, to be placed at Nanparah and other places, on the border of the forest, to aid in securing the gangs, should the Nepaul authorities seize, or drive them over their border.

On the 21st June, I directed Captain Hollings to proceed to the border, and put himself again in communication with the Nepaul district authorities, that they might not urge his want of readiness to receive the

robbers, or to co-operate with them in the arrest, as an excuse for not carrying the orders of their Court into effect. He was at Seetapoor, whence he sent a party of Nujeebs, under Girwar Sing Tomandar, to the border, and a company of the Oude Auxiliary Force to Secrora, and proceeded himself on the 29th, with a small guard, to Bulrampoor and Toolseepoor, the nearest point in Oude, to the Palpa district of Nepaul, where he was to be met by Heera Sing, a drummer, and his brother Bhageerat, whom he had sent on to the Governor of Palpa, with the papers from Nepaul, and a letter from himself, to say, that he should be at hand to aid, and to receive charge of the prisoners. Captain Barlow was at Secrora, and Lieutenant Rotton at Fyzabad, watching the movements of Beneeram and other leaders, whose colony occupied the thickets of Khyreebad and Banka. Secrora was on the border of the forest, only four marches from Nanparah, and five from the Goreeala pass, without any river intervening, and not more unhealthy than the Seetapoor cantonments. He was at Toolseepoor on the 17th of July, and found the Rajah, whose jurisdiction extended up to Bankee, on the Nepaul border, seemingly well disposed to aid; but he had to contend against the Rajahs of Bulrampoor, Akoona, Bhinga, and Charda, and the Nepaul Governors, and could hardly spare troops to assist in putting down robbers. He had recently given his daughter in marriage to the Governor of Palpa, to whom the letters from the Court of Katmandoo were addressed. Captain Hollings thought, that, if the chiefs could have disputes between them settled by Government, they might be induced to employ their means in the suppression of gang robbers; but they are now obliged to keep them always ready for self defence, while they receive money and aid on emergency from these gangs.

Captain Hollings proceeded through the forest to Bureea, and the Goreeala ferry over the Rabtee, without having any of his men attacked by fever. His messengers had not met him at this place, as he expected, on the 27th, but the Nepaul authorities had written to Dhun Bahader, of Toolseepoor, to say that they had received the red seal (lal mohur) from Katmandoo, ordering them peremptorily to seize and make over to the British officers, the gangs of robbers, under Mungul Sing, who had taken shelter within the Nepaul border. On the 2d of August, Captain Hollings writes, that the Nepaul authorities were playing false—that the Governor of Palpa had kept his messengers, and referred him to the authorities at Saleeana, who wrote to the Toolseepoor Chief to ask where Captain Hollings was, and were told in reply, that he was ready to receive the gangs, or to move on, and seize them himself, if they had no objections. To this effect another message was sent to the Governor of Palpa. On the 4th of August, he discovered that his messenger, the drummer, had been laid up with the Turæ fever; and on the 8th,

messengers came from the Nepaul authorities to invite him to advance and co-operate with them in the Soneearee jungle, in an attack upon the Decoit colonies, and to close, with a part of his detachment, the passes from their position to the south and west. Captain Hollings refused to do any thing more than receive charge of them when seized, as the responsibility now rested with them, and they might seize them, if disposed to do so ; and he told them, that he would return to Lucknow, unless they made haste to execute the orders they had received, as it was no longer safe to keep his men in such a position.

The two leaders, Mungul Sing and Benee Ram, were laid up with the Turae fever, of which twenty or thirty of their followers had already died, pent up as they now were in the most unhealthy part of the forest. The Nepaul people promised to seize the whole in fifteen days, if he would advance as they proposed ; but he did not think it safe to consent to do any thing more than to guard the two passes leading back into Oude over the Rabtee. For this purpose he ordered up some of the Toolseepoor Chiefs. On the 11th of August, Colonel Caulfeild ordered Captain Hollings to retire with all his detachment, as he saw no prospect of the Nepaul authorities doing what was required of them, and thought it improper to expose any longer officers and soldiers in so unhealthy a position, at such a season of the year ; and to explain to these authorities the reason why he did so. Intimation of these orders was on the 17th given to the Resident at Katmandoo and to myself. Two companies of Colonel Roberts' Oude Brigade were, however, left at Bankee, to watch the movements of the Decoit colonies ; and Captain Barlow at Secrora, was directed on the 19th, to tell the Nepaul authorities that he would be ready to receive the robbers, whenever they might think proper to make them over to him.

On the 16th of August, Mr. Hodgson wrote to Colonel Caulfeild to say, that he thought the Nepaul Government insincere, and that Captain Hollings should be withdrawn for the present—that the Governor of Palpa had pretended that he believed the Decoit gangs to be in reality secret allies of the British Government, in order to make it appear that his presence was necessary in the district, and he could not safely leave his post to appear at Court, as he had been ordered to do—that he now writes to say that he was mistaken, and considers the banditti to be foes of the British Government, who might be made exceedingly useful to the Nepaul State ; and that it would be dishonorable to give them up—that Mungul Sing had no doubt paid him handsomely for the expression of these opinions to his Government. Duleep Sing was still in the Oude forest, east of the river Rabtee, with his colony, containing, at least, two hundred able bodied Decoits.

On the 1st of September, the Lucknow Resident, Colonel Caulfeild, received a communication from the officiating Resident at Katmandoo, Mr. Hodgson, stating that the Nepalese authorities now seemed well disposed to do what was required of them, and requesting that officers might be sent to receive the Decoits, whom they might be prepared to make over to them. Captain Hollings was in consequence ordered back to Secrora, to meet a deputation from the Governor of Palpa. On the 27th of September and 8th October, Captain Hollings writes to me from Toolseepoor, that Lieutenant MacDonough, of the King of Oude's service, who had been sent on to the frontier, near Bankee, with a detachment from Secrora, by Captain Barlow, had seen Mungul Sing in custody of the Nepalese, by whom he had been captured; and that Dhun Bahader Sing, of Toolseepoor, had captured Benee Ram, who still remained with his colony within the Oude border, and made him over to the Nepalese authorities, and not to Lieutenant MacDonough as he ought—that a great many of the Decoits had died of the jungle fever; fifty had been seized with their leaders, Mungul Sing and Benee Ram, and the bands been all broken up. None had ventured to recross the Oude border; but there were still a great many at large to be looked after.

Lieutenant MacDonough, a gallant and zealous young officer, left Lucknow, with a detachment of the 1st Regiment Oude Force, on the 10th September, and on the 17th, reached Bankee, on the frontier, where he met one hundred of the Oude Bhurmars, or sharp shooters. Here he met Major Dya Opudeea, and Moonshee Durbaree Lal from Nepaul, who told him that, if he took his party on to Rajghat, on the river Rabtee, he would thence command all the passes from the Decoit position in Nepaul back into Oude, as Rajghat was north of the Madhoo Bun and Guroot Bun Hills, through which these passes lay. Believing the Nepaul authorities to be sincere in the professions sent by the mission, and dreading that any backwardness on his part to move on and co-operate, might induce them to relax in their exertions, he ventured to push through the deadly jungles with all his little force, though he had been requested not to expose them, or himself, to their influence. The 21st had been appointed by the Nepalese for the attack on the banditti, and on the evening of the 20th, he reached his position with one hundred of the King of Oude's 1st Regiment, one hundred sharp shooters, and one hundred of Dhun Bahader's men, and accompanied by the Nepaul mission. At 8 A. M., on the 21st, he heard, through this mission, that an attack had been made during the night on the Decoits by three companies of the Nepalese Light Infantry (green) Regiment, who had secured the leader, Mungul Sing, with some of his followers, and that another company of the same regiment had been sent after Benee Ram; and in

the evening, he learnt from the mission, that both leaders, with fifty-three followers, had been secured, and made over to their charge.

Early on the 22d, the mission, accompanied by six Native officers, waited on Lieutenant MacDonough, and stated "that the Nepaul troops, "employed in pursuit of the Decoits, were becoming much dissatisfied "at being detained in the unhealthy jungles of the Sonaree district, "after the work had been done;" and he thought it to be his duty to receive charge of the prisoners on the 23d. On the 24th, he left Rajghat, and on the 25th, reached Bankee, where his people secured five more of the Decoits. On the 1st of October, he left Bankee, and on the 4th reached Bharaitch, and made over his sixty-one prisoners to Lieutenant Kinder, who had been directed to relieve him of the charge. Lieutenant MacDonough returned to Lucknow, where he died on the 19th of October, of the fever caught in the jungle, through which he had had to pass and re-pass. Before he reached Lucknow, eighty, out of the hundred sepahes of the 1st regiment, which he took with him from that place, were attacked by the same fever, and a great many of them died. Several of the prisoners died of the same fever.

This promising young officer was, no doubt, indiscreet; but it is certain, that, if he had not gone on, we should have got no Decoits from the Nepalese that season; and I regret that he did not live to derive any personal benefit from his successful exertions.

On the 9th of October, I had written to Colonel Caulfeild to express my apprehensions that, whatever might be the effect of the present operations, the gangs would be sure to rise again in the Oude forest, if our efforts should be at all relaxed; and, on the 14th, he stated in his reply, that the gang of fifteen hundred Decoits, who had taken shelter in Nepaul, had been broken up, and a death blow given to the organized bands of this class in Oude; but that, instead of relaxing in his efforts, he should do his utmost to prevent their ever rising again. These are the letters, which passed on the occasion, and they may be considered useful, if not interesting.

1. Colonel Caulfeild to Mr. Secretary Maddock, 27th May 1840.
2. Colonel Caulfeild to Mr. Torrens, 3d October 1840.
3. My letter to Colonel Caulfeild, 9th October 1840, copy of which was submitted to Government.
4. Colonel Caulfeild to me, 14th idem.

(Copy.)

To T. H. MADDOCK, ESQUIRE,
Political Secretary to the Government of India,

FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter of the 18th ultimo, I have the honor to report, for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council, that a detachment of the 2d Regiment of Infantry Oude Auxiliary Force, under Lieutenant Hollings, and a Regiment of Colonel Roberts' Brigade, commanded by Captain Barlow, of His Majesty the King of Oude's service, after some prolonged movements calculated to hem in a considerable party of Budhuk Decoits, under a celebrated leader, Mungul Sing, made a forced march on the morning of the 13th instant, with a view to surprise the gang to which I have referred. The entire success that this well planned and zealously executed movement was calculated to secure, was frustrated by the ford on the Rabtce river, over which the Decoits passed, being left undefended, although Rajah Daun Sing Bahadoor, of Toolseepoor, a subject of the Oude State, had assured Lieutenant Hollings, that it should be well guarded : had it been so, I have every reason to presume that the whole of Mungul Sing's gang would have been made prisoners.

2. Notwithstanding the failure of this attempt to seize Mungul Sing and his party, the impression that our proceedings have elicited will, I trust, prove salutary. The Decoits will have been taught that they are no longer safe in those haunts, which have hitherto afforded them a secure retreat, and the Oude landholders, who openly associated themselves with the Decoits, or secretly connived at their location within their limits, will see, by the consequences that have fallen upon the Charda Chief and his son, as well as by the seizure of Arjun Sing, that the contempt of the orders of their sovereign, will, in the sequel, be fraught with disastrous results to themselves.

3. The expulsion of Mungul Sing and his gang, from the Oude territories, will not only prove beneficial, by relieving society from that constant anxiety and apprehension to which their presence gave birth, but will serve, in event of their possible return, to direct retributive justice upon the heads of those through whose instrumentality they may obtain ingress, and enable the Government to make more successful and efficient arrangements, than those which I now have the honor to report.

4. The number of the Budhuks, who have fallen into our hands, does not exceed sixty; but the consequences attending the expulsion of so large a gang, as that headed by Mungul Sing, and the general excitement that has been created, will render the service performed by Lieutenant Hollings and Captain Barlow, and the officers and men under their command, a most important benefit to society, and entitle those gentlemen to the cordial thanks of the Oude Government, and the gratitude of the inhabitants of the districts, who have been such severe sufferers by the daring robberies committed by those organized bands of audacious delinquents.

5. During the period of Captain Barlow and Lieutenant Hollings being employed in pursuit of the gangs of Budhuks that infest the northern and eastern districts of Oude, all my requisitions have been met by His Majesty and the Minister, with a spirit of cheerful compliance, which at once gratified and assured me, that the Court, at least, was sincere in the desire, that the country should be cleared of the nuisance under which it had so long suffered: and I beg in this place to suggest, that a letter from the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India to His Majesty the King of Oude, approving of the late operations that have been instituted against the disturbers of society, would prove gratifying to His Majesty, and stimulate him to renew with vigor such further operations during the ensuing cold season, as may be required to secure the suppression of Decoitee throughout Oude, and the complete expulsion from the country of those hordes of Budhuks, who, of late years, have established themselves in the forests of the Turæe.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. CAULFEILD,
Acting Resident, Lucknow.

LUCKNOW RESIDENCY,
27th of May, 1840.

To H. TORRENS, ESQUIRE,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of India,

FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council, the

1. *Resident in Nepaul's letter, 13th September, 1840.

2. Acting Resident's in reply, 21st Ditto.

3. Captain Barlow's letter of the 29th September.

documents noted in the margin,* by which His Lordship will be informed, that fifty-three Decoits have been made over to the Oude authorities by those of Nepaul. The Right Honorable the Governor General

will perceive with pleasure, that the two most notoriously distinguished leaders of the banditti, Mungul Sing and Benee Ram, are among the captives.

2. As the Decoits were not made over to the British Authorities, I trust that my receiving them from the Oude Government, will not be considered any compromise of Mr. Hodgson's proceedings with the Katmandoo Durbar. The security of the Decoits appeared to me a matter of such primary importance to the interests of the public, that I did not consider myself justified in refusing to receive them.

3. From native information, I am inclined to believe, that a large proportion of the party expelled from Oude, have fallen, by the effect of fever, in the unhealthy position in which they found temporary security from our pursuit.

4. The capture of the celebrated leaders, Mungul Sing and Benee Ram, with so many of their immediate adherents, and the dispersion of the remnant of the gang, which escaped the effects of fever, may be considered as the entire break up of the predatory bands, who, finding shelter in the Oude territories, bordering on the Nepaul Turae, issued from those fastnesses, and committed lawless aggressions in distant parts of India to a surprising extent.

5. As the Oude Government, by the aid it has afforded, and its hearty co-operation at all times with our measures, has contributed largely to the annihilation of the long prevailing system of Decoitee, established throughout the Oude dominions, I hope, therefore, I shall not be considered as going beyond my duty, in suggesting for His Lordship's consideration, that a letter be written to His Majesty, complimenting him upon the final success of the arrangements adopted, in concert with the British authorities, for the suppression of Decoitee. Natives are very sensible of praise, and are more influenced by it, than by moral obligation, to the performance of their duty, the expression therefore of His Lordship's approbation in the present instance, will stimulate the Durbar to future exertion, when required.

6. In conclusion, I beg to bring to the favorable notice of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India, the praise-worthy zeal

with which Lieutenant Hollings devoted himself to the performance of the duty with which he was charged. Neither exposure nor season checked his exertions, and to them, I feel myself deeply indebted for whatever has been accomplished under my orders.

(Signed) J. CAULFEILD,
Acting Resident.

LUCKNOW RESIDENCY,
3d October, 1840.

No. 575.

TO COLONEL J. CAULFEILD,
Officiating Resident, Lucknow.

SIR,

I have had the honor to receive the copy of your letter of the 3d instant to Mr. Secretary Torrens, and beg to offer the expression of my congratulations on the success that has attended your efforts in the pursuit of the colonies of Budhuks, who had so long been located in the Oude Turæ, and lately sought shelter within the Nepaul frontier, east of the Rabtee.

May I, however, be permitted to state, that I am afraid there are expressions in the 4th and 5th paragraphs, calculated to convey an impression, that the work of suppressing these gangs has been completed; and that the letter from the Governor General to His Majesty the King of Oude, which you have solicited, may convey a similar impression to the Court of Lucknow, and thereby tend to relax, or to suspend altogether, the pursuit after these colonies. If the pursuit be kept up three or four years more, with the same skill and energy that have characterised it under you for the last year and half, the work will, I think, be done; but if it be now suspended, or at all relaxed, the gangs will be as strong as ever in the course of one or two years.

When, by the exertions of Messrs. C. W. Smith and Macfarlan, the then greatest leader of the Oude Turæ, Maherban Sing, and one hundred and twenty-five of his gang, were arrested and convicted in 1821, it was supposed that their system had been suppressed; but they hardly felt the blow at all. Great and numerous gangs still went forth every season from the Oude Turæ; one, on the 9th of December 1822, in the district of Goruckpoor, while Mr. R. M. Bird was Magistrate, actually caught one of our treasure escorts, composed both of troopers and foot soldiers,

in a net, and took their treasure from them, after killing and wounding some of the party ; and one, on the 17th of December 1823, attacked a large treasure escort going to Nepaul from the plains, beat them, and took the treasure. They were, half of them, subsequently arrested, with the treasure upon them, by a regiment of sipahees, and taken to Katmandoo. Upon the information elicited from them by Mr. Hodgson, an attack was made upon the colonies, under the auspices of the Resident, Mr. Ricketts, with so much rigour, that they were thought to have been entirely suppressed.

The colonies continued, however, to reside in the Oude Turae, and to send out their gangs to all the most wealthy districts. In 1824, they attacked and plundered a Government treasury at Jounpoor ; in 1825, another Government treasury at Goruckpoor, another at Jounpoor, a third at Purneea ; in 1826, another in Jounpoor, and another at Nuggur, in Goruckpoor ; on the 12th January 1828, another at Futtehpoor ; in 1829, another Government treasury at Allahabad, and another at Putecalee, in Furruckabad.

Mr. Currie, the Magistrate of Goruckpoor, now attacked these colonies with the whole of Major Hawkes' corps of local horse, and as much additional Police as he chose to ask from Government, with all the aid that the Resident, Mr. Ricketts, could give him from the Oude forces. The colonies were driven from one bivouac to another, and twenty or thirty of them finally convicted and sentenced ; and in 1831, it was thought that these gangs had been once more extinguished beyond the possibility of recovery. But almost as many gangs took the field the next season, as any season before, and continued to do so every season after. In 1833, they attacked the Peshwa at Bithoor, and took away nearly three lacks of rupees. An attack was again made upon them by Mehndoo Khan, one of His Majesty the King of Oude's Amils, with between two and three thousand men. Five of the chief leaders of the gang were killed, with about a hundred of their followers ; and once more the system was thought to have been extinguished.

The colonies still continued to reside in the Oude Turae, and to send forth their gangs to all parts of the country, particularly over Oude, to revenge the attack of the Amil. On the 3rd February 1834, they attacked and plundered our Government treasury, at Sakeet, in Mynpooree. On the 25th January 1835, they did the same with our Government treasury at Modha, in Humceerpoor ; on the 4th January 1836, they did the same with our Government treasury at Gurowly, in Mynpooree. The merchants' houses, and convoys, attacked within the time by these gangs, were perhaps twenty times the number of the Government treasuries.

The loss of a few leaders is of little importance to these colonies ; and there are fifty men among them, who will be deemed capable of supplying the place of Mungul Sing and Bennee Ram in a year or two ; and in the mean time, whenever ten or twenty of them can gather together, they will carry on their trade, by making a leader out of the boldest and most sagacious among them. They have much wealth buried in different parts of the Oude Turae, on which they can draw for subsistence in time of need ; and they can always get credit with the landholders, merchants, and shopkeepers, for more, when these funds are exhausted. Bhoora, a young man of about thirty-two years of age, has recently been arrested, after being engaged, in a Decoitee in Gwalior, with his relations of the Chumbul colonies. He was arrested, when only eight years of age, with his mother, in the Oude Turae, confined in the Lucknow jail, for twenty years, and released only about twenty-two months ago. The moment he got his liberty, he went to his friends, on the Chumbul, to claim the bride to whom he had been affianced while in prison ; and ere he could get her, he was persuaded to join her family in this Decoitee, the only one he has ever been in. He was taken on his way back to the Oude Turae with his young bride. He is a fair specimen of a Budhuk. They will never give up their darling trade, as long as they can muster enough to commit a Decoitee.

If the present energetic and simultaneous attack upon these colonies at all points be persevered in for a few years, their system will be effectually suppressed ; but if it be suspended, or relaxed at any point, it will inevitably rise up again, and render all that we may have done of no permanent avail.

The men, who have now been arrested, and who have died in the Nepaul jungle, of fever, are not, I should think, likely to be more than one-eighth part of the able bodied men of the colonies of the Oude Turae. When the gang advances to, or returns from an attack, it separates into small parties, to reunite at particular times and places : so it is with the colonies—when they are hard pressed, they separate into small parties, or families, to reunite the moment that the pressure is withdrawn. If our pursuit were suspended for only two months, these colonies would all be reunited, and ready to send out their gangs again on service. They never have any thing, but rude huts in the jungles, that they may move, when necessary, without regret or delay. All parts of the forest are the same to them ; and their bivouacs are constructed out of materials every where abundant, as quickly as tents are pitched. Dispersion is of little importance to such people—to disperse and reunite, with skill and celerity, is the principal art to which they are trained from their boyhood. A colony, dispersed widely over the coun-

try to-day, in twenty different parties, all in different disguises, will be to-morrow concentrated, and planning the attack of the places they have been reconnoitering during their rambles.

There will be an officer soon at Goruckpoor, to co-operate with Lieutenant Hollings, and intercept any gangs that may venture from the Turae into our districts to the eastward ; and the means, to be employed under him, will be placed under Lieutenant Hollings till his arrival. I trust you will excuse my taking the liberty to state my impressions so freely and fully as I have done on this occasion.

(Signed) W. H. SLEEMAN.

MORADABAD,
9th October, 1840.

TO MAJOR SLEEMAN,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 9th instant, and in reply to state, that although many minor bands of Decoits may exist in the Oude Turae, I cannot help thinking that the entire break up of so large a body as 1,500, the number supposed to have sought refuge in Nepaul, may fairly enough be considered as a death-blow to the continuance of organised bands to any very material extent in the Oude territories. I do not, however, at all mean, that we should relax in the least ; on the contrary, the present moment, *i. e.*, while alarm exists among the freebooters, appears a most favorable time for keeping up a warm and uninterrupted pursuit ; but I lament to say, that neither the season, nor the crippled state of our force, will admit of any very active measures at present. The whole of the battalion of Roberts' Brigade, under Captain Need, recently employed in or near the Turae, are suffering from fever, both Europeans and Natives.

2. With regard to the letter which I have suggested might be written to the King, I can assure you from my knowledge of His Majesty, and the officers of the durbar, that so far from its damping the ardour now kindled, or checking their co-operation, I am persuaded it would be productive of the contrary effect.

3. The deeply interesting detail, which you give of the apparent suppression in former years, of certain Decoitee associations, and their almost marvellous resuscitation, should serve to stimulate all now engaged in the good cause, to unabated and steady perseverance for a considerable period, after all the predatory band have disappeared ; and

so long as I continue at this Court, if Lieutenant Hollings can be spared to act under my orders, I think, I may promise, that you shall not have reason to complain of relaxation upon our part.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. CAULFEILD.

Acting Resident.

LUCKNOW RESIDENCY,
14th October, 1840.

The difficulties which the British representative at the Court of Katmandoo had to contend with, in making the Nepaul authorities do their duty to the paramount power, in the arrest and surrender of the Oude gangs, are sufficiently shown in the above narrative of operations; but his efforts were in proportion, and ultimately successful. The Chief of Nepaul was bound by treaty to cause the arrest and surrender of all such outlaws to the British Government; but where the disposition to do, happens to be wanting, both on the part of the Chief, his Ministers, and local agents, there are a thousand ways of evading the duty, without affording any tangible grounds for a charge of violated faith. During our pursuit after the Thugs, a great many, from the districts north of the Ganges, had sought and found shelter within the Nepaul frontier; and Captain Ramsay, who had charge of our duties along those districts, ever found Mr. Hodgson anxious and ready to assist him, and urge the Court to its duty. The Court, in appearance, was not wanting in a disposition to perform it—strict orders were given to all its local agents along the frontier, to afford prompt aid on all proper occasions; but so many delays and impediments arose, from one pretext or another, that it was with infinite difficulty, Captain Ramsay could get the most notorious outlaws of that class of murderers secured and surrendered to him, though he had men watching their every movement, and communicating it to the local authorities.

There was, moreover, a bad feeling on the part of the Nepaul Government towards that of Oude, arising from a portion of the Turæ, which had been taken from Nepaul during the war, having been made over by our Government to the King of Oude; and the Court of Nepaul was not bound by any treaty to surrender outlaws from Oude. There was not, I believe, a man, in any of the Oude Turæ colonies of Budhuks, above the age of eighteen, who had not been engaged in a Decoitee, attended with murder, in some part of the British possessions; and, in consequence, entered in the general register of denounced Decoits by profession. Their surrender was, therefore, demanded as offenders

against the British, and not the Oude Government ; and it was as such, that Mr. Hodgson felt justified in demanding so forcibly their arrest and surrender. The King of Oude had delegated to the British Resident at his Court the authority to arrest and try all Budhuk and other Decoits of Oude, who stood charged with crimes perpetrated within our territories, in the same manner as Thugs ; and all such as the Resident was so empowered to arrest and try, the Nepaul authorities were considered bound to surrender. Fortunately, however, by the arrangements concluded after the war, the Oude boundary, west of the Rabtee, was extended up through the forest to the foot of the hills, into which these outlaws did not much like to ascend, as it would cut them off from their quarry in the plains, during four or five months in the year, and from a good many of the luxuries in which they had been in the habit of indulging. We did not, therefore, stand much in need of the acquiescence and co-operation of the Nepaul authorities, except to the east of the Rabtee, where their boundary extended out through the forest into the cultivated plains, so that they might conveniently have colonized there, if encouraged to do so by the local authorities, with the treasures and store-rooms of our districts open to them at all seasons of the year, and with spirits and provisions of all kinds, cheap and abundant, all round them. It would have been idle in us to expect any very cordial support, or co-operation, on the part of Nepaul, in any undertaking that we might think beneficial to the general interests of society, so soon after they had been beaten by us in a war of their own seeking, though the terms of the peace, that followed and restored to them so large a tract of the cultivated and culturable plain of the Turae, east of the Rabtee, were so much more liberal than they had any right to expect or hope ; for they very naturally disliked the British Government, for having so rudely arrested them in their wild career of conquest ; and in effect deprived them of the use of that army, which all their revenues had been employed in creating and maintaining, and which a long series of successful aggressions upon their neighbours had made them consider as irresistible, till it came in collision with our own. Under all these circumstances, Mr. Hodgson had great difficulties to contend with, in securing for us the acquiescence and support which we required from Nepaul, and could not possibly have done any thing without. It is, therefore, gratifying to me to have this opportunity of recording the sense I entertain of the value of his assistance during the whole of these operations.

By the treaty concluded with Nepaul in March 1816, the whole of the lands which that State had held below the hills, from the Coosee river west, were ceded in perpetuity to the British Government, with the exception of those constituting the town-ship of Bootwul ; and in return, the British Government pledged itself to pay stipends, to the extent

of two hundred thousand rupees a year, to such of the Chiefs of that State as might suffer from the alienation of the lands so ceded. This was an admirable arrangement, calculated to relieve us from all cause of future anxiety, regarding the disposition of that State, while it gave us the command of an immense tract of land, of vast capability, from its almost unbounded powers of natural fertility, and the means of preventing its ever again becoming an asylum for outlaws from our territories. It would have made Nepaul disband its army, and by degrees acquiesce calmly in that state of repose, which India had soon after, by the entire suppression of the odious Pindaree system, such fair ground to expect from the British supremacy.

But by a subsequent arrangement, made after all the articles of this treaty, as far as depended upon the Nepaulese, had been duly executed, the British Government, as an act of special grace and favor, restored all these lands in lieu of the stipends of two hundred thousand rupees, which it had pledged itself to pay, with the exception of that portion, which skirted the Oude dominions between the Rabtee and the Surjoo rivers, and which was ceded, with the adjacent district of Rohilcund, on the left bank of the Surjoo, to the King of Oude, by the treaty of the 1st of May 1816. The revenue of the land, thus given back to Nepaul, did not, at that time, much exceed the amount of the stipends, as it had been desolated by many centuries of contests between the hills and the plains; and from the great insalubrity of the climate, it was not thought likely by those, who suggested, or advocated the retrocession, ever to yield much more. But depending, so much as it did, upon the low lands, for agricultural produce, Nepaul exerted all its energies to restore the population and tillage, and it is now supposed to yield above thirteen hundred thousand rupees, and to be likely, at no distant period, to yield as much more. There are manifest signs, throughout that dense and unhealthy forest, of its having been once thickly inhabited by an industrious and civilized people; and under the Nepaulese, it is likely to be so again. That portion, which skirts the Oude dominion, having been ever since occupied by so many gangs of professional Decoits, has lost much of the tillage and population which it possessed, when we ceded it to Oude; but it may recover both, now that we have succeeded in driving out these gangs, if they are not permitted to re-establish themselves, and the Government of Oude applies its energies judiciously to the task of reclaiming it. We may now, in "sober sadness," regret the romantic generosity of the Marquis of Hastings, which restored so great a source of future strength to keep alive the martial spirit of a people so prone to dwell with enthusiasm upon the recollections of its Military history, and to believe its soldiers the finest in the world; and so situated as to command some of our best possessions, and so great a portion of the

great artery, the Ganges, through which circulate the vital powers of our eastern and western provinces.

I was once, while looking over the hills about Sabatoo, trying to convince a Goorkha Sipahce, who had served with the Nepaul forces in the war in that quarter, that his weapon, the cookrie, with which they now cut down wood, but formerly men, was a less formidable weapon than the sword. "It may be so, sir," said he, "but this is the weapon with which we cleared all the hills you see before you." "Yes, my friend, they are now bleak enough, God knows, and you must have swept away with your cookrie a great many of their finest trees." "I do not mean the trees, sir—I mean the soldiers, armed with other weapons, who tried in vain to defend themselves against us—they could never stand before our cookries." They certainly had swept away, with their cookries, the greater part of the men, and appropriated to themselves, in some capacity or other, all their females and children, or sold them to the people of the plains; and so great was the terror they had excited, by their courage and ferocity, that one Goorkha was considered equal to any four of the men of the hill districts they invaded, though they were much larger in stature, and physically much stronger. They felt towards the Goorkha invaders, precisely what the Anglo Saxons felt towards the invading Danes, before the Great Alfred arose to rouse their drooping spirits, and teach them how to use the gifts which God had given them.

Captain Paton resigned his appointment as first Assistant to the Resident at Lucknow, and extra Assistant to the Commissioner for the suppression of Thuggee and Decoitee in Oude, in the month of February 1840, and was succeeded in the latter office by Captain Hollings. I cannot deny myself the gratification of here inserting, in my letter to Captain Paton's address of the 26th January 1840, the expression of my sense of the value of his services, in the pursuit of these numerous gangs of hereditary robbers and murderers, to whom the kingdom of Oude had, for so many generations, been a secure asylum.

No. 102.

TO CAPTAIN J. PATON,

First Assistant Resident Lucknow.

26TH JANUARY, 1840.

SIR,

You are to leave Lucknow on the first of next month, for Europe, and, I fear, with the intention not to return to India. Permit me, therefore, to offer you the expression of my grateful sense of the

valuable aid and support you have afforded me, in the duty of suppressing Thug associations throughout India.

2. When you first entered upon this duty, in 1834, there was no part of India, more infested by these offenders, than the dominions of His Majesty the King of Oude. At this time, the whole of those dominions may, I hope, be considered free from the crime ; for, though many of the members of the gangs of Jumaldhee Thugs, who resided in Oude, are still at large, I have had no reason to believe, that they now any where carry on their trade of murder. To your exertions and those of Colonel Low, the Resident, is the country indebted for this measure of good ; and I feel assured, that in looking back upon your Indian career, in which you have filled many high and responsible offices, and had opportunities of usefulness that can fall to the lot of but few, there is no part of it, which you will recollect with more pride and pleasure, than that, during which you have been associated with me, and others, in carrying out the benevolent views of Government, in the suppression of this great evil.

3. I trust that your successor, supported and encouraged by the present Resident, Colonel Caulfeild, will be able to render the good that has been done permanent, by securing the members of the gangs, who are still at large ; for while they remain at large, we may be sure that they will return to their old trade the moment that they perceive the vigilance of the British Resident at His Majesty's Court, in any degree relaxed.

4. I cannot close, without expressing the deep regret I feel, that it has not suited with your views, to remain and continue your exertions in a cause, scarcely less important, less interesting, or less difficult—the suppression of the Budhuk associations—who, residing in the forests of the northern border of the Oude dominions, extend their depredations into the remotest parts of India.

(Signed) W. H. SLEEMAN,
General Superintendent.

MORADABAD,
26th January, 1840.

Captain Sleeman remained in charge of the Goruckpoor division, during 1841, and kept up a steady pursuit after the gangs under Duleea, Buchraj, Inderjeet, and other leaders, still left penned up in the bordering forests of Oude, and he succeeded in arresting a good many of their

members. Unable to undertake any distant enterprizes, they were dangerous to all, who resided in, and on the borders of the Oude and Goruckpoor forests ; and more particularly to the Europeans and Natives, who had taken the new grants of land, with a view to restore the tillage and population of those tracts. He left Goruckpoor in November 1841, to assume charge of the Rohilcund circle, which it was no longer necessary for me to retain in my own hands ; and was succeeded by Lieutenant Nation, who continued the pressure upon those gangs till May 1843, when Captain (now Major) Ludlow received charge of that division.

He continued the pursuit till the rains of 1844, when the whole, in despair of being any longer able to remain organized, and carry on their trade, surrendered. They had been much reduced in numbers by sickness and seizures, and consisted of the above named three, and two other leaders, ninety-four able bodied followers, with two hundred and eighty women and children. With the exception of Duleea the chief leader, and a few of the more infirm of his gang, the whole were enlisted into Police establishments, in different parts of the country, in order that they might earn their subsistence, and become, by degrees, blended with the rest of society. Unfortunately, in his anxiety to induce the gangs to surrender before the close of the rains, when they might move to other parts if dissatisfied with the terms offered, Major Ludlow tendered them a pardon for all past offences, without the usual conditions ; so that we have not the same power over them, in case they forfeit their claims to consideration by their misconduct, that we have over all the others of their class who have surrendered, on the promise of conditional pardon.

	<i>Leaders.</i>	<i>Followers.</i>
Transferred to the Magistrate of Goruckpoor,	1	... 4
To Mr. Dampier, Superintendent of Police in Bengal,	1	... 30
To Mr. McLeod, Magistrate of Benares,	1	... 8
To the Magistrate of Ghazcepoor,.....	1	... 3
To the Magistrate of Jounpoor,	0	... 4
To Captain Elwall, as Nujeebs,.....	0	... 12
To Major Macadam's Police Battalion,.....	0	... 14
To Major Ludlow's own Nujeebs,	1	... 0
On the experimental farm, four men and five boys,...	0	... 9
Made Approvers under Major Ludlow,.....	0	... 3
One Cripple and one Idiot,.....	0	... 2
Total.....	5	... 89

Mr. Reade, the Magistrate of Goruckpoor, proposed to locate Duleea, and a few of the more infirm of his followers, upon a small grant of land

adjoining a Christian settlement, within two miles and half of the station of Goruckpoor; though persuaded, that if these people are ever so placed as to be enabled to keep up their exclusive language, and intermarriage, the chances must be much in favor of their sons becoming, what their ancestors have been for so many generations, robbers by profession, and locating themselves along the forests of the Turae, in exclusive bodies for Decoitee, still I did not feel justified in opposing this proposal, as the grant was so near the station of Goruckpoor, and adjoining a Christian colony, and the women and children might find the means of honest subsistence in gathering wood and grass from the jungles for sale at Goruckpoor. Duleea, and a few of his more infirm followers, were, in consequence, located upon this grant, and are said to have taken well to agricultural pursuits. He received a liberal allowance, and the rest, assistance in subsistence and stock for the cultivation of the farm, which aid from Government was to cease, as the return of the farm should become sufficient for their continued support. Many of the women and children remained with them, and eked out their means by cutting grass and wood in the forest for sale. The rest all followed their husbands and relatives to their new destinations in the Police establishments; and will, I hope, all become absorbed in the mass of society, forget their exclusive language, and intermarry with other people. I must give the narrative of Major Ludlow's successful pursuit after Duleea's large gang in his own words. It was the last of the Oude forest gangs, and its surrender at this time was of great importance.

No. 68.

TO COLONEL W. H. SLEEMAN,

General Superintendent, Jhansee.

GORUCKPORE, 9TH OCTOBER, 1844.

SIR,

I have the honor to state, that as I am aware my recent letters, written at intervals, and during a time of some excitement and office labor, do not possess so connected a detail of those proceedings which induced the surrender of the Decoit gangs, as you may be desirous of possessing in your office, I have been led to put on paper the following brief summary of events, which have, I truly believe, effectually eradicated the crime of professional Decoitee from the vicinity of these provinces.

When the season opened in January last, I repaired to the frontier, and though my exertions were unattended with success, it still shewed to the Decoit leaders, with what secrecy a body of police, both horse and foot, could be concentrated at any given point, and advanced ten or twelve coss within the Oude or Nepaul territories, for the purpose of making seizures. Subsequently, and through the assistance of Major Lawrence and Captain Hollings, the Durbars of Oude and Nepaul were induced to grant a few score soldiers, each to assist in scouring the hills and jungles, in pursuit of these people—a measure, which gave practical proof to these outlaws, that the Governments were conjointly determined to put down the crime of Decoitee. All this time I kept up a continuous correspondence with every petty chief on each frontier, making them of consequence in the measure, by urging them to exertion in a cause espoused by their respective Durbars. These arrangements caused some seizures, and by the hands of parties, who, if not actually connives at Decoitee, tacitly, and at intervals, permitted these depredators to reside in the districts subject to their control. Subsequently, and whilst my people were employed to the westward, Mr. Reade's police, greatly assisted by some of Captain Wheler's Irregular Horsemen, made a successful onset upon the gangs within the Nepaul territory, by which some Decoits were cut up, and others seized ; and more recently, a jemadar of the Nepaul Militia, whom I had enlisted on my side, got unfortunately, and, I believe, accidentally, killed, whilst endeavouring to assist my people. This last mishap to the Decoit gangs, occurring at a time, when the Resident of Nepaul was unremitting in his exertions to induce the Government of that country to make seizures of the marauders located on its frontier, aroused the wrath of the Nepalese to that degree, that the Decoits saw they had no longer a hiding place in Nepaul, and were contemplating a departure for the westward, when they received my purwana advising them to surrender.

My first communication with the Decoit gangs was opened by means of a woman.

Kullian Sing, a corporal, and Munsah, a sipahee, in Major Macadam's Police Battalion, subsequently rendered me the greatest assistance—

Kullian going boldly amongst these people, leaving Munsah as a hostage for the safety of Dullia, the principal leader, who, with a few of his men, visited me at Goruckpoor, towards the end of August last. Dullia, who had never known what it was to trust his fellow man, was, of course, suspicious both of me and my measures. He promised to come in, with his gang, *after the rains*. Now I knew very well there was no faith to be placed in promises of this sort. I was also aware, that with so much

Kullian and Munsah were formerly Decoit approvers in my office.

time left them for deliberation, the chances were ten to one in favor of their finding a new and safe location in the Oude Turae, and that, forgetting temporary persecution, they would there resume their hereditary calling. I therefore persuaded Dullia to return almost alone, to the jungles, leaving with me some fifteen of his followers, assuring him, that his only hope of receiving favor from the British Government, was, by his returning, with the *whole of the chiefs and gangs*, and that too, *forthwith*.

It was a great object to effect the surrender of these people during the rains, as, by bringing them down in boats at such a season, I placed a sea of water between them and their former haunts, thus effectually cutting off all chance of retreat, whilst I dictated terms to and dispersed them to the several civil stations. It was well that I took this precaution, for I verily believe, that almost every native in the district, who has heard of my plans, and who was himself interested in the permanency of expensive Police establishments, threw every possible obstacle in the way of my arrangements, and by the artful promulgation of all sorts of reports of punishments in store for them, endeavoured to frighten the already scared people back to their jungles. I by no means exempt my own department from this charge, who, high and low, have asked me the question, "what is to become of us now?" But thanks to the assistance of Munsoor Ally, tuhseeldar of Bansee, who was most active in procuring boats, and to the unceasing energy and tact of Kullian Sing naick, ninety-four men, and two hundred and eighty women and children, were all landed safely at the ghat at Goruckpoor, without a single murmur of wrong, or disturbance from the district through which they passed, though they occupied fourteen days on their journey.

It is of no use my taking up your time by detailing here the difficult task I had to perform in breaking up a confederation of years. I, of course, insisted, that they *should* be separated; but they had been so completely tutored by interested parties, that nothing would persuade them to be sent either to Dumnoh or Umballa—(from both of which police stations, it was known I had received requisitions for men) these places appearing to them in the light of penal settlements, or as they designated them, the "*Kala panee*."

Within the space of ten days, the distribution and departure for their respective stations, of the ninety-four surrendered Decoits, was effected according to the accompanying statement.

In conclusion, I think, I may say that the measure has been one of mercy—that it has been attended with no permanent, and but very trifling present cost to the state—that in time it will admit of a reduction

in our frontier Police establishment, and it will prevent the further necessity of pushing occasional bands of horse and foot into Oude and Nepaul, an objectionable measure at any time, and one which *we* certainly would not submit to, on the part of our neighbours.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. A. LUDLOW,

Assist. Genl. Superintendent.

GORUCKPOOR,

The 9th October, 1844.

These sustained and successful attacks would have been of little avail, had the pursuit not been simultaneous, and equally well sustained in all parts of our north-western provinces, and over all the territories of Native Chiefs, west and south of the river Jumna. Within our own districts, there was not certainly one-twentieth part of the Budhuk Decoits, who occupied them, when the forts of Sasnee, Camona, Mursaun, and Hatras, were under their own Native Chiefs, who had all, for many generations, patronized this class of offenders, and considered them as one of their most legitimate and fruitful sources of revenue; but the collective number had not diminished. They had only been driven, after the capture of these forts, from our own districts into the territories of the independent Native Chiefs, north of the Ganges, and south of the Jumna rivers, whence they infested our districts, though not to the same extent as when secure of impunity under their great patrons, the proprietors of the above forts, who kept them as poachers keep their dogs. Their colonies upon the plains of India were like masses of quicksilver upon a table—press the large body ever so slightly, and it instantly separates into numerous small ones, which continue to roll about independently, till circumstances are favorable to their reunion, when they combine and act together, as if they had never been separated. During their separation, for whatever period or purpose, they lose no one quality that they require, to enable them to act again in concert the moment they meet.

To have brought our means to bear upon the colonies of one part alone, would have been of no avail—those of the Oude Turae would have separated, and united themselves to those of the Chumbul, and *vice versâ*, or gone into Bengal; for there were colonies of the same great fraternity under the name of Keechuks, speaking the same exclusive language, and carrying on their depredations upon precisely the same

system in the remotest districts of that province. So early as the 13th of May 1839, Mr. F. C. Smith, the very able Superintendent of Police in Bengal, sent me abundant proof, that there were at that time colonies of these Budhuk Decoits, settled down close to Calcutta, where they carried on the same system of depredations as in Oude, and under the protection of a Mr. ———, an extensive landholder, who had collected them upon his estate, precisely in the same manner, as the native landholders in the western provinces, by giving security for their future good behaviour to our Judges and Magistrates, and procuring their release from confinement. There was too much reason to believe that he had, like them, employed them himself in the same manner, or acquiesced in their employment in the same manner, by others. By one of these lucky accidents, which may not happen once in a quarter of a century, Mr. Patton, the able Magistrate of the Twenty-four Pergunnahs, seized a gang of them, with all their booty, immediately after they had committed, in Calcutta, a Decoitee attended with murder.

The Superintendent of Police in Bengal wished to take advantage of this arrest, to secure all the colonies of the same fraternity in Bengal, and have them sent back as vagrants to Oude, from whose great colonies they were supposed to have branched off, in utter despair of ever being able to secure convictions against them, or specific charges of Decoitee ; but Government did not think it would be fair towards the Sovereign of Oude, who was so cordially supporting our measures, and the proposal was not acceded to.

The pursuit was kept up successfully under his successor, Mr. Dampier, by Captain Marsh, who was stationed at Purneah, and he collected and placed on record a good deal of valuable information regarding the colonies of this fraternity along the Turae, or forests separating Bengal from Nepaul, in that quarter where they went by the name of Keechuks. They had long ceased to be intimately connected with the colonies of the same fraternity in Oude, and the North West Provinces, and Native States south of the Jumna, though they spoke the same language, and the proceedings, in the pursuit in that quarter, were transferred from my office to that of the Superintendent of Police in Bengal. Major Riddell, Captain Elwall, and Lieutenant Nation have, under his supervision, since continued the enquiry and pursuit with success.

Colonel Low returned from the Cape of Good Hope, and resumed charge of the Residency of Lucknow from Colonel Caulfeild in March 1841, and retained it till February 1843, when he was succeeded by Major General Nott : during this time, Colonel Low exerted himself to the utmost in support of our measures. Many of the fugitives, who

lingered about their old haunts in the forest, or attempted to return to them from other quarters, were arrested ; and the trials of all those, who had been arrested during his absence, and remained untried, were conducted by him, under commitments by Captain Hollings. In the suppression of Thuggee, we had received more aid and support from no public officer than from Colonel Low, from the time he went to Lucknow, in November 1831, to the year 1843, when he went to the Cape : he had given his most cordial support, and the aid of his great personal influence with the Sovereign of Oude, to the promotion of measures, which he considered to be so conducive to the welfare of the people of India ; and, if he ever sees these pages, he will not be displeased to find this testimony borne to his valuable services in a good cause, by one who laboured so long and so successfully with him.

CHAPTER XI.

The pursuit after the Budhuk, *alias* Bagree colonies south of the river Jumna, was kept up with equal energy and success by Major Graham at Agra, Captain Birch in Rajpootana, Major Riddell succeeded by Captain Harris in Malwa and Guzerat, and Captain Ellis in Gwalior. The Residents, Colonel Speirs at Gwalior, Sir C. M. Wade and Mr. R. N. C. Hamilton at Indore, and Major Thoresby in Rajpootana, gave all those officers the most cordial support, and secured for them, as much as possible, of the co-operation of the Native Chiefs of their several divisions of superintendence. I may here insert Major Graham's and Captain Birch's own narratives of their proceedings in this pursuit, as I have given that of Major Ludlow. Major Graham had the cordial support of all the Honorable Company's Civil servants within his circle, who manifested the most anxious desire to promote, to the utmost of their power, the success of his operations. I may say the same of all within the other circles, whose aid we required—all seemed anxious, to the utmost of their power, to promote the great end which Government had in view—the relief of the people of India from this dreadful scourge under which they had so long suffered.

Substance of the Narrative of Captain Birch of his proceedings in pursuit of the Budhuk, alias Bagree Decoits, of the Chumbul, Alwar, Kurowlee, Gwalior, &c. &c.

In the month of August 1838, a party, under the orders of Nurain Purshaud, sherishtadar, with a few chuprassies and hurkarus, was deputed from the Commissioner's office at Moradabad to Agra, in order to ascertain the names and localities of the several Budhuk gangs, whose general haunts were in the Gwalior, Kurowlee, and Rajpootana States. The registering of Decoits' names, and the collecting of evidence against them, were entrusted to the hands of Captain, now Major Graham, and the manner in which he entered on his subject, and perfected his arrangements, is too well known to his immediate superior and the Government, to require comment from me. Fortunately, for the investigation of this

matter, a Decoitee had been committed at the town of Urneah, in the Tonk States, some short time before. In this affair, the leaders of which were Tejah, son of Hizaree, Mowjee, son of Tejah, and Hutecla, son of Jungree, a booty of sixteen seers of gold, equivalent to rupees 40,475, was obtained. A dispute arose as to the distribution, in which Kullooa, now an approver in Rajpootana, was denied a share, either from his own (Mowjee's) gang, or the others associated with him. This of course he endeavoured to resent, and intimated to the participators generally, that if they persisted in withholding his rights, he would either give intimation of the perpetrators to Major Graham at Agra, or go over to the Nuwab of Tonk, and obtaining the aid of a party of horse from him, lay hands on the whole. To prevent this, the gangs arranged amongst themselves to kill Kullooa. Fortunately for him, however, he had a friend in one Dulla, also one of Mowjee's followers, who communicated the state of affairs, and advised him to decamp, as he best could, which he did that same night, and, with his family, made his escape to Agra, and presented himself to Danceah, father of Ramjeet, and Luchmuna, Decoits, who advised him to lay his case before Major Graham. The presence of Kullooa, at this moment, and the confirmatory testimony he willingly recorded, both as to the names and characters of the Decoits tended to hold out a prospect of the whole system being exposed, and eventually eradicated. Kullooa's evidence corroborated the statements, which had been made by Umur Singh, a Budhuk Decoit leader, who had been seized a year before, with several of his associates, in an attack on the town of Jugneer, in the Agra district. Having been sentenced to imprisonment for fourteen years, with labor on the roads, the Commissioner Major Sleeman, obtained his services from either the Futtehghurh, or Cawnpore jail, and recorded evidence, which may be said to have formed the ground-work of all future operations.

Danceah, a noted leader, and father of leaders no less noted, was at this time in the police at Agra, and he added much valuable information to the stock, which was in course of collection. He was perfectly well acquainted with the several leaders and number of the respective gangs, and, though not then known as a Decoit himself, was well acquainted with the system, and all its associations. His son, Ramjeet, was a very extensive leader, and, at the suggestions of his father, and the requisition of the Magistrate, Mr. Alexander, surrendered himself, on the promise of a conditional pardon. He was sent to Major Sleeman, before whom he acknowledged his participation in upwards of forty cases of Decoitee, in which he had been either a leader or an associate. Matters were thus progressing very satisfactorily, when, from some cause to me unknown, Ramjeet took it into his head to retract some of his former evidence, and to deny his having ever had any connection with a Decoitee which took place in the

town of Agra, on the night of the 30th October 1837, and which is known as the Lohakeemundee affair. He was, it appears, desirous of laying the credit of this transaction at the door of Ajeet Singh, jemadar of Decoits, probably to secure his arrest for some former grievance or misunderstanding amongst themselves. He, however, failed; the guilt against himself, and his father, Danecah, (who till then had never been suspected) was clearly established, and the result of his negation, was the transportation of himself for life, and the incarceration of his father for a period of fourteen years. Before this occurred, sufficient evidence had been collected, regarding the character and pursuits of these Bagree, or Budhuk, colonies, to ensure the success of our operations against them. The leaders of these colonies, of whom Gujraj, Bhowanee, Buctah, Tejah, Ajeet, and Mowjee, were the most pre-eminent, had rewards offered for their seizure according to their rank and character. Their names and those of their followers were all registered and numbered, as they became known, and the total number of able bodied Decoits, registered as engaged in marauding and plundering at that time, appears to have been about five hundred and twenty, who appear to have been disposed of in the following manner:

Arrested by Captain W. C. Birch, in Rajpootana and	
Guzerat,	188
Ditto by the other officers, but in what proportions, unknown,	135
Died at their homes, as ascertained from approvers,	125
Either at large, or unaccounted for,	72

520

Such appears to have been the state of things, when I joined my present office, in the month of March 1839, which may be said to be the period when commenced, in earnest, the pursuit after these characters. The difficulty of the pursuit may well be imagined, when it is considered that the haunts of the Decoits were chiefly in the ravines of the Chumbul, and the dense jungle in the Alwar, Kurowlee, and Gwalior States, and that they had staunch friends and protectors in the petty chiefs and landholders of the independent States, who invariably received a portion of their spoil and booty, and who had an interest in screening and protecting them, not only on this account, but because the presence of the Decoits upon their estates secured them against all aggressions from others. From these estates, upon which the colonies felt tolerably secure, expeditions were undertaken into Jypoor, Guzerat, Malwa, and even the Bombay Presidency. The unfortunate sufferers were generally treasure carriers, and altogether the system was one, which involved the Decoits in comparatively little risk, whilst their return

were ample and almost certain. To secure the Decoits in their then position, and prevent them from migrating into distant districts, was, of course, an object of our care. We had therefore to select places for the location of our parties, which were unsuspected by them, and from which we could detach our spies in secrecy. Major Graham's guards and approvers were at the capital of Alwar and Soopur, in the Gwalior States, mine at Hindown, in the Jypoor country, Tonk, Kotah, Kurowlee, and Indurgurh, each and all so located, that rapid communication and concentrated movements could be made with facility ; and all acted with so much zeal and spirit, that we had a fair prospect of ultimate and entire success.

There can be no doubt that the judicious measure resorted to by Government, of offering handsome rewards for the arrest of the leaders and leading characters, had a great effect in stimulating them to exertion in the pursuit, and they stood in great need of it, for the risk and labour were very great.

Much success did not, however, attend my operations during the year 1839, only three men of the Budhuk clan fell into my hands, all of whom were duly committed for trial to the Agent Governor General in Rajpootana, and sentenced to imprisonment for life. It should, however, in estimating this success, be borne in mind, that I did not get approvers from Major Sleeman and Captain Graham, till August 1839, and was for some time occupied in placing them in position, and collecting the information required.

Towards the latter end of this year, Captain Graham and I united our guards for the purpose of making a descent on the gang of Gujraj Singh Jemadar, which was at that period located in the ravines of the Chumbul, and mustered at least one hundred and twenty able bodied men, on the more influential of whom various sums had been placed, and on the head of the chief himself, no less than five hundred rupees.

The secret movements of these people were less known to us than ours were to them ; and this was no doubt a great impediment to our success, and rendered our arrests less numerous and less rapid than they would otherwise have been. We were not, however, discouraged, and on one occasion our parties killed this leader's son, Belassa, and took some prisoners, and altogether so harassed and distressed him and his followers, that Gujraj made a retreat into Gwalior, and surrendered himself to the troops of that State.

The reward offered for his capture, was, in my opinion, unfairly withheld on this occasion, for the energetic exertions of our parties of

Nujebs, and the approvers who attended them, had, no doubt, induced the surrender, and they merited the reward. The prompt payment of the money, and the acknowledgment of the services rendered, would have had an excellent effect, and given a valuable stimulus to further exertions in the arduous and dangerous duty. Gujraj surrendered, I believe, in the early part of 1840, and was sent to Captain Graham, at Agra. He sent him to Major Sleeman, at Moradabad, after he had been duly tried, convicted, and sentenced to imprisonment for life at Gwalior, by the Resident and the Durbar. He died afterwards in the Moradabad jail.

The year 1840, showed a more satisfactory result than the previous one, and terminated in the arrest of forty-seven individuals of these colonies, in Rajpootana alone. They were as usual committed to the Court of the Agent Governor General in Rajpootana for trial, and sentenced as follows :

Imprisonment for life	17
Ditto for 14 years	1
Ditto for 12 years	2
Ditto for 10 years	1
Ditto for 8 years	5
Ditto for 7 years	1
Ditto for 5 years	3
Ditto for 4 years	1
Ditto for 3 years	1
Died under trial	6
Acquitted	3
Transferred to Agra for further evidence and trial ...	6

47

The leniency of these sentences is, in my opinion, a very great mistake, and deserves the serious attention of the Government, if it desires ever to put a final check to professional Decoitee. A man, who has been born from Decoit parents, and brought up as a plunderer by profession, never forsakes his trade ; he is unfitted by habit for any other pursuit ; and since the good food, easy life, and absence of all terrors in any one of our jails, are rather incentives to, than checks upon, crime, we may fairly conclude that he will return to his old trade, the moment he is released from prison.

The fault of these lenient sentences lies not in the presiding European Officers of the Court, but in the constitution of that Court, composed, as it is, of the wukeels of the different Native States, who seem either unwilling, or afraid, to pass adequate sentences upon such prisoners.

They have a voice, I believe, equal with that of the president, except in case of an even number of assents and dissents, when, of course, he in virtue of his situation, has the casting vote.

Measures for the suppression of this crime would be much more satisfactorily carried out, if the Court of wukeels possessed no power, beyond determining, from the evidence before it, the guilt or innocence of the accused, of the charge preferred against him. If found guilty, the final sentences should be left to the presiding European covenanted servant of Government, who should see, that no Decoit by profession receives his discharge from jail, unless he gives ample security for his future good conduct.

Captain Morricson, one of Colonel Sutherland's assistants, has generally tried my prisoners, and his opinion on the subject may not be undeserving of consideration.

Among the prisoners seized during this year, seven or eight were seized in the very act of an attack on the town of Sawur, in the Ajnere district, and about twenty five miles east of the cantonment of Nuscera-bad, on the night of the 5th April 1840, in which four of the townspeople were killed, and seven wounded. The attack was on the shop of a wealthy banker, Mungnee Ram, and the booty amounted to ten thousand rupees, eight thousand seven hundred of which were eventually recovered through the vigilance of the police, who were soon on the trail of the fugitives, and captured seven, one of whom, Kesurcea, son of Luchee, became the best approver I have ever known. He is now at Jubulpoor, sent down at his own request, and is well worthy of some advancement.

During the whole of our operations against Gujraj and his followers, there was the greatest difficulty in obtaining the least assistance from the native local authorities, the two principal opponents being Thakoor Chumbul Singh of Hindown, and Thakoor Govind Singh of Balere. The former even tried to resist the authority of Major Thoresby, then Political Agent at Jyepoor, and refused to acknowledge a respectable native officer and twenty sowars, whom he had specially obtained from the Durbar, to assist us and secure our parties against interference and molestation. His contumacy brought down upon him a merited punishment, and he was ejected from his situation. Of the fate of Govind Singh, the Thakoor of Balere, I am unable to speak. It was proved in evidence that on one occasion, he received a bribe of four thousand rupees to screen Gujraj; and on another, that he actually received him into his fort, disguised in the garb of a woman. These

Thakoors, among whom there were but very few shades of distinction, may all be said to have been corrupt, and to have strained every nerve to screen the Budhuks : looking at the matter dispassionately, it is scarce to be wondered at, for while enjoying their leisure at their homes without risk, loss, or responsibility of any kind, they could invariably command a very liberal share of their illicit and dishonest gains.

The year 1841 added, in the Rajpootana circle alone, thirty eight to our list of previous seizures, and their sentences were thus determined before the Agent Governor General :

Imprisonment for life	11
Ditto for 14 years	1
Ditto for 12 ditto	3
Ditto for 10 ditto	1
Ditto for 9 ditto	1
Ditto for 8 ditto	5
Ditto for 7 ditto	3
Ditto for 5 ditto	1
Ditto for 4 ditto	2
Ditto for 3 ditto	1
Ditto for 2½ ditto	1
Ditto for 1 ditto	1
Transferred to Agra for trial	3
Ditto to Indore for trial... ..	1
Acquitted	3
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Total,	38

This season, from its very commencement, seems to have added to our difficulties in the prospect of all future arrests ; as the attack on Gujraj's position, his own surrender at Gwalior, the death of his son, Belassa, and the knowledge, that in proportion to our seizures, so must our information increase, all combined to impress the fugitives with an idea that their original haunts had ceased to be any longer safe for them, and that, if they would be free from pursuit, they must look out for new countries to reside in. Breaking up therefore into small parties, and hurrying away in a state of the greatest confusion, they passed through the almost unfrequented tracts of jungle, bordering the Kotah and Boondie States, into Malwa. Some one hundred and fifty moved straight down into Guzerat, thinking that our pursuit would be as rapid as their flight. The leaders were Seetaram, Tejah, and Urjoon, whose proceedings and subsequent capture will be given in detail hereafter. Bhowanee and Bolakee, two great leaders, with a smaller party, moved direct for

the Paál of Dulla Rawut, about fifty miles south-west of Neemuch ; and Buctah, another leader, took up a position at the village of Kulmere, a few miles west of the cantonment of Bhopawur, in Malwa. Here, however, his stay was of short duration, as just about this period, a Decoitee was perpetrated by some Mogheas of Meywar on the town of Deypalpoor, near Indore, but since the offenders could not be traced, it was naturally concluded that they might be among these new arrivals. A secret attack was, therefore, made upon them, and twelve of the gang were captured—he himself, with four others, escaping with great difficulty. The prisoners were all taken to Indore, where a party of approvers, deputed by me from Nusserabad, fully established them to be of the Bagree gangs pursued by me ; and they form a portion of the thirty-eight, whose sentences have been already detailed. Buctah and his remaining followers went on to the Paál of Dulla Rawut, and there they found Bhowanee, Bolakee, and others, who had preceded them. In this location they remained, mustering about thirty men in all, from March 1842 to the end of 1843, when hearing that an attempt was about to be made to induce Dulla Rawut to surrender them to the British Government for a reward of five hundred rupees, they left his estate, and sought protection from the Thakoor of Surearee, a large town in Joudhpoor, and on the range of hills, which separates Marwar from Meywar.

While under the protection of Dulla Rawut, they made three expeditions into the Bombay Presidency, and brought back bags of money from Baroda and elsewhere. They obtained these bags from money changers, who take them to the bazars, at a distance from their houses, and return home with them after dusk. On their way they are watched by the Decoits, who fell them to the ground with their bludgeons, as they pass the darkest and most retired places. The practice is a very common one with these people, when pressed from want of funds, and generally succeeds. They also perpetrated a few Decoitees, but were so very sharp in their movements, that, although I had advanced my guards and parties to the very confines of my circle in the Neemuch and Oodeypoor directions, it was only occasionally that I could lay hands on even a straggler.

On their march towards Surearee, about the month of April 1842 died Bolakee, one of their leaders, for whose arrest Government had offered a reward of one hundred and fifty rupees.

The years of 1842-1843 yielded few arrests ; the former only ten, who were tried and disposed of as follows :

Imprisonment for life	3
Ditto for 12 years	1
Ditto for 4 ditto	1
Ditto for 1 ditto	2
Transferred to Gwalior	1
Acquitted	2
	<hr/>
	10

The latter eleven, who were thus disposed of :

Transferred to Rohilcund for trial	6
Died under trial	3
Acquitted	2
	<hr/>
	11

The cause of this paucity of seizures will be understood, when it is considered, that the gangs under the most able leaders, had already put themselves in a position, which rendered our pursuit after them exceedingly difficult. The denseness of the jungle, the intricacy of the country, and the wild character of the Bheels, who occupied it, made it dangerous for any party to pursue them closely, even had I been aware of the exact positions which they had taken up, which, in truth, I was not. At Surearee, they remained for a period of eighteen months, during which, with the exception of an occasional expedition into Guzerat, in which they obtained only a bag or two of rupees from money changers, their lives were passed between agriculture and indolence. Some few Baoree families, to whom the Bagrees were well known, resided at Surearee, and on this account, as well as that of its being a quiet and retired spot, did they select it as their abode. On arrival, they presented themselves to the Thakoor, and made him, as was their custom, a nominal present of a cocoanut and a few rupees, and obtained his permission to reside upon his estate, by representing themselves to be any thing but what they in reality were. Eighteen months had elapsed, when the Thakoor, without assigning any particular reason, gave them intimation to quit his town, which they did, and established themselves at Kot, which is also in Marwar, under the auspices of Thakoor Guj Singh, whose refractory disposition had, two or three years before, obliged Captain Dixon to march against him, under the orders of Government, at the head of the Mahirwara Local Battalion, in order to secure the rebel chief, Chummun Singh, who lived under his protection. It was intimated to Guj Singh, that similar misconduct would involve the forfeiture of his

estate, and I thought, I had proved such a case of transgression, but was mistaken. Established in this position, and free from all fear and molestation, the Decoits made another expedition into Guzerat, in the hope of obtaining a more substantial booty, but fortune was not favorable, and their attacks all proved failures.

It must not be imagined, that our exertions, in pursuit of these offenders, slackened, in consequence of the difficulties opposed to them. To me they were rather stimulants than checks, and I have no doubt the same feeling operated with all other officers of the department; but it must be borne in mind, that the best portion of these gangs had altogether quitted Captain Graham's circle, and were getting more and more remote from mine down into Guzerat, where no officer of the department had hitherto been stationed. That country was under the supervision of Lieutenant Harris, Assistant Resident at Indore, and extra Assistant in this department, and I am unable to state the extent of his successes.

In the early part of 1844, mortified at having all my plans of pursuit frustrated, I deputed spies in the disguise of Gosaens, to the haunts, in which I was sure that these robbers and their families now resided, and my arrangements, as far as information went, were successful. The spies found their way to Kot, and saw all that was going on among the Decoits. They daily visited, and smoked their hookas with the Bagree leaders and their followers, and daily forwarded to me a report of proceedings, through means, which I had prepared for communication with me. For upwards of three months, my spies remained among them in disguise, continually urging that a party of troops might be sent to attack, and seize the gangs, who were then at their homes, with their families, fifty in number. Major Thoresby was at this time officiating Agent Governor General in Rajpootana, and to him I made known my earnest desire, that immediate measures might be taken to secure this gang, who had quietly settled down, without any apprehension of being pursued by us in such a country. There can be no doubt, that had measures been promptly entered on, the best portion of the gang would have fallen into our hands, for I was prepared, previous to the descent upon them, to block up all the different outlets to the south—a road they would certainly take, as no other was open to them, knowing as they did, that my parties were fully prepared for them to the east, north, and west. The surprise, proposed by me, might possibly have failed in some degree, but it could not have failed so entirely as that adopted by others, who had finally to decide upon the measure. Major Thoresby over-ruled my suggestions of taking up positions and surprising

the gang with our own means, and ordered, that as Marwar was harbouring these Decoits, so Marwar must be held responsible for their arrest.

Thus the matter passed from my hands into those of Captain French, the officiating Political Agent at Joudhpoor, and arrangements were made, which seemed to others to promise fairly, but ended, as most native plans do, in nothing. It so happened that about this time, May or June 1844, the mother of the Pokurn Thakoor was on a visit at Kot to Guj Singh, and Captain French suggested to the Joudhpoor Court, that it would excite little or no suspicion, if he, the Thakoor, were sent with a suitable force, ostensibly to escort her home, but in reality to secure the Decoits, who would be pointed out by my approvers, who were to join and accompany the party. The suggestion was a very good one, and might have succeeded, had no delay taken place; but the dilatoriness, which characterises all native movements, took place, and it was not until the end of August, that the Thakoor commenced his march. He reached Kot just fifteen days after the whole gang, amounting to forty or fifty men, had proceeded on an expedition into Guzerat. Four men were captured at their homes, two of whom had remained in charge of the families, and two had just arrived from other gangs in Kattiawar, and these, with the wives and children, about one hundred in number, and some booty, were brought in to me at Nuseerabad. Among them was the wife of Bhowanee, the chief leader, who was told that she could never be released till her husband should surrender or be taken, and this was what chiefly led to his surrender some time after.

This failure was a sad blow to my hopes, but whether it arose from design on the part of the Jeypoor Durbar, or from accident, I cannot say—that it arose from design, is, by no means, unlikely, for they were always averse to my seizing offenders in Marwar, and studiously strove to thwart me in every way they could, insomuch, that their interference and vexatious objections at length obliged me to withdraw my parties from their dominions altogether. The four prisoners secured at Kot, fortunately for me, were found willing to communicate all they knew of their own and absent gang's movements, and in the course of time, through kind treatment, the exercise of a good deal of patience, and the plan of keeping all parties separate from each other, so as to prevent their communion with each other, I had obtained a mass of information, which was forthwith made known to the Commissioner, Major Sleeman. It was clear, satisfactory, and corroborative of what had been already placed on record, and the tallying of minute points and dates shewed that we had yet a fair prospect of success, if we only kept our own counsel, and acted freely and independently of all native agency. The

arrests of 1844 were eleven, who were thus disposed of by the Court of wukeels :

Imprisonment for life	1
Ditto for 14 years	1
Ditto for 10 years	3
Ditto for 5 years	1
Ditto for 2 years	1
Acquitted	4
	<hr/>
	11

As the Guzerat field had never been thoroughly beaten over, and all our information tended to show, that thither, to avoid our pursuit, all the fugitive Bagrees had fled, I suggested to Major Sleeman the advantage of my moving down into that country, and endeavouring to lay hands on those who had so long eluded us. The suggestion was approved by him, and after releasing all the women, children, and followers, who had been brought up from Kot, with the exception of the wife of Bhowanee, and the sister of Buctah, I commenced my march down into Guzerat in January 1845, and reached Ahmedabad in the course of the next month. I made no captures on my way down, which was scarcely to be expected, moving in the public manner I did, and with so many persons in attendance. From Ahmedabad, I returned to Aboo, after a short sojourn of some twenty days in that district, and there established myself for the hot season of 1845, entrusting the conduct of the pursuit to my Tomandar, Sheikh Kumal, one of the best Native officers I have ever known. My instructions to him were, to observe the strictest secrecy in all his movements, to conciliate the local authorities on every occasion, and, above all, to see that his parties committed no exactions, or oppression of any kind, on the people. Steadily pursuing his object, he arranged his plans so admirably, that shortly after I had sent him on his mission, he forwarded me a list of twenty-eight fugitive Decoits, whom he had surprised and captured. The head of the surprised gang, Tejah, for whose arrest, two hundred rupees had been offered, chanced to be absent at the time, and was not taken. He, however, in the course of three days, seeing that his wife, and all his family had fallen into our hands, voluntarily surrendered to Captain Fulljames, at Ahmedabad, and is now in the Gwalior Toman of Police. This capture pleased me much, not only because we had secured so many of the fugitive colonists, but because we had found in their possession between fifteen and twenty thousand rupees' worth of gold coins, pearls, and precious stones, which had been taken from four treasure carriers at Chandore, in the Bombay Presidency, about two years and half before. The booty taken on the occasion in question, amounted to seventy-six thousand, but the rest had all been spent before the robbers were taken. The Tomandar's success did not stop here, for in a few days more, he had added twelve more

seizures to his list, and he pursued the rest so closely, that he compelled them to take boat at Broach, in order to cross the Gulf of Cambay, and escape into Káteeáwár. We had captured a very large portion of the fugitive gang, possessed ourselves of a large amount of booty, taken two leaders, Tejah and Urjoon, and so scattered this once formidable band, that owing to the advancing state of the season, I ordered the recall of my party, as I had originally promised them I would, and directed them to rejoin me. In the month of June, I came down from Aboo, with a view to proceed over to Neemuch, in quest of the gangs of Bhowanee and Buctah Jemadars, of whose migrations into the Meywar States, after an unsuccessful attack on some treasure carriers, in the town of Meangaon, in the Bombay Presidency, I had received certain information. In this affair, Bhowanee and his people received rather rough treatment. The treasure carriers stood their ground, and defended their property manfully, two being cut down by the Decoits. Bhowanee himself received several sword cuts, and they were obliged to retire, without securing any thing to compensate for the hard knocks they had received. My parties, then located in the Meywar States, frequently got on his trail, and, I believe, were occasionally near him, but we could not succeed in catching him. During the rainy season, my Tomandar, Sheikh Kumal, joined me with his prisoners and booty, and as some of the former had behaved very well in securing, after their own, the arrests of their associates, I received them kindly, made them a few trivial presents, and admitted the more influential of them as approvers. After three or four of their old relatives and friends, among the approvers, of tried good character, had given the required pledges, that they would not attempt to escape, the fetters were removed from the legs of the new hands.

I have the greatest confidence in these people, after their word has once been passed. Some of my approvers have scarcely ever had a chain on their legs. I have invariably treated them with consideration, and shown them the advantages to be gained from their own good conduct ; and I would recommend the general adoption of a system, the soundness of which, I think, will be acknowledged, when I here mention, that out of one hundred and eighty-eight Bagree seizures, which I have made in Rajpootana and elsewhere, only one man has deserted from me. I don't include Thugs and *Moghea Decoits* in this category, the latter of whom I look on as the most mendacious and least trust-worthy class of criminals I have ever been brought in contact with. Until this period, the wife of Bhowanee had steadily resisted all my efforts to persuade her to induce her husband to surrender, thinking of course, that I should one day be tired out, and give her a discharge. I issued a proclamation to the Bagree colonies, in Rajpootana, to the effect, that all who voluntarily surrendered themselves to me at Nusseerabad, before the 31st December 1845, would receive due consideration from the Government ; but those

who held aloof, and might be subsequently caught, would be treated with the utmost severity of the law. The Bagree women, desirous of saving their fugitive husbands, and apprehending that they must be taken, if they did not surrender, and might be hung, and hoping that, if they should surrender, they would be settled down to some employment with their families, exerted themselves to bring them in. Bhowanee's wife, among the rest, asked, if I would release her from temporary surveillance, with a view to bring in her husband, she furnishing me security for her own return, whether successful or not in her search. I, of course, assented, feeling quite sure that the approvers, who became her security to me, would never let her go, unless they had received a secure pledge, that under any circumstances she would rejoin me. Away she went on her mission, and in a few days after my arrival at Nusseerabad in November 1845, she returned in company with her long-sought husband, Bhowanee, and Buctah, and twenty-one of their followers. Thus with my forty captures in Guzerat, twenty-three surrenders at Nusseerabad, four seizures in Marwar, and the voluntary surrender of Tejah Jemadar, I had, in the year 1845, well nigh finished the Bagree colonies in Rajpootana. Lieutenant Harris had captured Seetaram Jemadar, and some of his followers, in Guzerat. Ninety and more, hard pushed, had surrendered to Captains Ellis and Dewar, in the Gwalior States. All the leaders had been secured, and the gangs broken up and disorganised by this rapid and simultaneous movement; and, I believe, that there were not thirty able bodied Decoits left of all the Chumbul colonies. They were so broken, dispirited, and dispersed, that they could not possibly act in concert.

The whole of the sixty-eight individuals were committed for trial to the Governor General's Agent in Rajpootana—some confessing to having been present at thirty, forty, and even fifty Decoitees during their career. The sentences passed upon them were as follow :

Imprisonment for life	17
Ditto for 14 years	5
Ditto for 10 ditto	8
Ditto for 7 ditto	6
Ditto for 5 ditto	3
Ditto for 4 ditto	3
Ditto for 3 ditto	5
Ditto for 2 ditto	3
Transferred to other Courts	5
Discharged, perfectly blind	1
Acquitted	11
Died under trial	1

I have stated above, that the whole of these sixty-eight individuals were committed to stand their trials at Ajmere ; but this I find is an error, as many of the eleven stated to have been acquitted, were discharged by me when I found, on an investigation of their cases, that no specific crime was chargeable against them. They were all Bagries by birth, and belonged to the gangs, which had, up to this period, carried on their depredations in Upper India. They had been seized with the gangs by the Tomandar in Guzerat, and as no charge, but that of associating with their parents and relations, could be brought against them, I made them over to their families, with whom, under my supervision, they are now residing. They might have been committed for belonging to a gang of Decoits ; but as past experience had shown me that their sentences would have been merely nominal, I preferred to release them, and let them remain with their relatives, and in the lenience shown, I have not been disappointed, for all are quietly located with their families, and have never since offended.

This last catalogue embraces the last seizures I have made of this fraternity, and I should say that there are very few now at large. Added to the arrests, which have been detailed in the foregoing pages, I here give an abstract of other seizures, which have been made by me, of Thugs, Megpunnah Thugs, Mogheah and Meenah Decoits, since I assumed charge in Rajpootana, and the whole of which have been disposed of as set forth in the following tables.

When the trials for 1846 had been brought to a termination, I was about to commence operations in earnest against the Mogheah Decoits of Meywar, of whom there are no fewer than two hundred and seventy, all registered and numbered, still at large. As the past seizures had all been tried by a presiding officer, and a punchacut of wukeels, and each sentence had received the approval and confirmation of the Agent Governor General in Rajpootana, I was somewhat surprised to be informed by him, in the end of the eighth year of operations against Decoits, that my mode of securing them was illegal and unauthorized, and that their arrest, if prosecuted at all, must be done through the agency of the Native States—my people pointing out, they seizing. This mode of procedure must ever insure complete failure, for the States will not only not seize them themselves, but will ever lend a hand to give intimation of the approach of danger, and rescue them from my parties, when they have been arrested. A few instances will show, that under existing orders and arrangements, the retention of an officer in this division to check the spread of crime, is perfectly useless, as neither will

he be heeded, nor his authority respected. In the year 1842, my parties discovered the undermentioned three Thugs :

Chununeea,..... No. 2,250, son of Lalla Omeid,
 Bhyroon,..... No. 2,727, son of Bhowana, and
 Mungleea, No. 2,768, son of Nugga,

(for whose apprehension, rewards of rupees two hundred, fifty, and fifty, had been respectively offered by the British Government) to be residing in the service of the Chief Bulwun, subordinate to Kotah, and demanded their surrender, pointing out at the same time who and what they were. Not the least attention was paid to the demand, the men were secreted, and screened from arrest, and have not to this day, October 1847, been surrendered. The Political Agent, Major Richards, fined the Chief three hundred rupees, the sums on the fugitives' heads, and paid the same over to the parties.*

On the 10th February 1846, my guards discovered this same man, Chununeea, to be in the service of Thakoor Seodan Singh of Umlee, subordinate to Tonk, and actually seized him ; but he was forcibly rescued by the Thakoor's party, and has neither been surrendered, nor since heard of. I have been in correspondence with the Rajpootana Agency for the last eighteen months, to have this Thug given up, but Colonel Sutherland has never been able to obtain his person ; and I have therefore ceased to make further applications about him. In August 1847, Ramah, son of Jhuroleeah, No. 1,002, general register, with a reward of one hundred and fifty rupees on his head, and a jemadar of Decoits, was discovered by my guard and approvers, to be employed as a servant in the Kotah Raj. The Minister acknowledged him to be the man who was sought for, and assured my people, that he should be given up in the course of the day, but he never was : he is still at large, has been screened by the very authorities, who should have surrendered him, and, of course, will never more be heard of.

Such is the system now introduced, and ordered by Colonel Sutherland. Its working, I think, I have shown to be bad, and that attempts to carry on the duties of the department, with hands so trammelled, must ever prove futile and abortive.

Had he been capable of bringing charges of oppression and exaction against my people, I should not have wondered at the new arrangements

* Captain Birch has made a mistake with regard to Mungleea. He was seized by a party of his under Chotee Khan, on the 16th December 1846, and sent to Jubulpoor for trial. The other two are still at large, and screened by the landholders of the Nawab of Tonk, who is not disposed to coerce them into surrendering them.

he has now adopted, but there have been no complaints of any kind ; all has hitherto worked well and smoothly, and I trust with credit to the British Government, and blessings and advantages to society.

(Signed) W. C. BIRCH,
Assistant General Superintendent.

NUSSEERABAD A. G. S. OFFICE,
The 20th October, 1847.

I must mention that the Agent of the Governor General in Rajpootana, has since modified the orders, which Captain Birch complains of, and directed, that persons from the Native Chiefs shall attend the arresting parties, and aid in the arrest of the offenders, against whom sufficient proof has been recorded. The officers and subjects in general of such Chiefs were, no doubt, in the habit of opposing the arrest of offenders of these classes, to the utmost of their power, though the Chiefs themselves were anxious to co-operate cordially with the British Government, in relieving society from their dreadful depredations ; and if the arrests were left entirely to them, none would ever be made. Some of the Chiefs felt interested in protecting the leaders, and gangs of professional robbers and murderers ; while others felt a pride in being able to evade the duty of assisting the paramount power in the exercise of this duty towards the people of India, and having their estates considered sacred asylums for offenders of all classes. Their officers and landholders of all kinds, and grades, exerted themselves to protect such offenders, with a view to present and prospective profit and advantage from so doing, and would never arrest, or assist in arresting them, if they could possibly avoid it.

Certainly, the final sentence upon prisoners, who are robbers and murderers by profession, and whose ancestors have followed the trade of robbery and murder for so many generations, should not be left to the wukeels of Native Chiefs, who have to consult, not only the feelings of these Chiefs themselves, but those of their ministers and influential officers and landholders ; and whose employment and subsistence depend upon their acting in conformity to their wishes ; for the representatives of the Supreme Government do not, and ought not, to guarantee them in their situations, which they hold only at the pleasure of their employers. They can only refuse to transact business with a wukeel, whom they consider an improper person, and require that a better shall be deputed by the Chief ; and such persons, by the duty of passing sentences upon such offenders, are placed in very difficult and trying situations, and had better be relieved from it. Their concurrence in the verdict might be

required, but the final sentence should be left to the covenanted servant of the British Government.

Men, who have become approvers, under the conditions sanctioned by Government, on the 27th of June and 29th of July 1839, and recorded a narrative of the numerous Decoitees, attended with murder, perpetrated by them in the course of their lives, have, by these Courts of Panchaet, been sentenced to short periods of imprisonment, dating from the day of their arrest, instead of imprisonment for life, as intended by Government. It was intended that a specific sentence to imprisonment for life should be recorded against them, the execution of which was to be suspended during good behaviour, in order that they might be induced to remain content with such employment, as could be found for them, and not to return to their trade of robbery and murder; but with these sentences to imprisonment for short periods, we shall have no chance of being able to detain them, for it will be impossible to find, for all such persons, employment sufficiently lucrative to induce them to remain voluntarily in our service. The greater part will be dissatisfied with the ordinary pay of the grades, to which they are eligible in our public establishments, or which we may have available for them; and we shall have no right to detain them after their periods of limited imprisonment expire. Such sentences are, therefore, altogether incompatible with the design of entirely suppressing this system of professional gang robbery. In all other parts of India, these hereditary robbers have cheerfully consented to the conditions above stated, in the hope of having the means of earning an honest subsistence, provided for themselves and their families; and so have those in Rajpootana; but the Panchaet has thought proper to defeat the object, by passing sentences of imprisonment for short periods, instead of imprisonment for life.

The following is Major Graham's narrative of his operations in pursuit of the Budhuk Decoits of the Chumbul, Alwar, &c., dated Agra, 10th July 1845.

SIR,

I have the honor, in compliance with your request, contained in your's, No. 81 of 1845, dated 2d May, to furnish a narrative of the pursuit after Budhuk gangs as far as it was conducted by me, and regret that, having to obtain information from other quarters, which had been sent out from my office, (still imperfectly supplied) and the sickness of myself and Amlah, has prevented my giving it sooner.

In August 1838, your predecessor, Mr. Hugh Fraser, placed himself in communication with me, and forwarded letters of Government,

intimating that the services of the officers for the suppression of Thuggee, had been partially placed at his command for suppression of Decoitee. I consequently sought information from Magistrates, Political officers, and all sources open to me, especially from native authorities, who had been engaged in Police duties, and entertained hurkaruhs best calculated for my purpose.

At this period, the class of Budhuk was scarcely known to me, even by name, but gaining useful information from one and the other, especially from that excellent officer, Mr. Mansel, then Magistrate of Agra, and Alli Ruzza, Tuhseeldar of Futteeahabad, who had considerable knowledge of these people, I soon began to see my way, and was, in some degree, prepared to respond to the experience and energy brought into play on your assuming the Commissionership, and found the pursuit, under your guidance, comparatively easy.

Mr. Fraser had deputed to me Moonshee Nurain Singh, a man of peculiar aptitude for the work in hand, and for any measure of success, which attended my operations, I am greatly indebted to him: his promotion to the office of sherishtadar of the Saugor Court, made by you, was a just and deserved reward for his services.

My first step was to procure Budhuk convicts from the jail, and in the course of inquiry from them, I discovered, that it was a custom of the gangs to depute some of their most active and intelligent members to all the sudder stations to take service in the Police, with the double object of acquiring correct and useful information to guide them in their plans of plunder, and to screen them in the cases they perpetrated; and it was not unusual for them to be entertained by officials, on the specific understanding, that they were to keep the Budhuk gangs away from their districts—Popap Singh at Coel, Dana at Agra, and Kulleean at Muttra, were instances.

On reporting this state of things to Mr. Fraser, he issued proceedings to abolish the custom; and I seized the opportunity of securing such of them on their discharge, as appeared to me best qualified to promote my object.

Doubtless they took service under me, with no better views; but when they saw the machinery in preparation for a strenuous campaign against their gangs, the amount of information we already possessed of their locations, parentage, &c., and that they were treated with kindness, coupled with firmness, they had penetration enough to discover the probable decline of their craft, and that they would best consult the

security of themselves and families by co-operation. By admitting these, and the best of the convicts, as regular approvers, and treating those, with most consideration and best pay, who made themselves most useful, and occasionally establishing a little jealousy between members of different gangs, all the particulars concerning the Decoitees they had committed, the parties and numbers attached to the several colonies, the Budhuk convicts imprisoned, who were likely to be most useful, &c. &c., were soon developed.

These approvers being judiciously distributed among other Courts, and the depositions tested one with the other, relative to all their comrades, and all incidents likely to be useful in the pursuit recorded, separate misuls, or record of proceedings, were made up, and your register being formed, I proceeded to detach parties to the haunts and colonies, on the banks of the Chumbul, and other places known to us. My Tomandar, Meer Jaffir Alli, took a party to work in the Kerowlee, Tomandar Sheopershaud in the Gwalior, and Moonshee Nurainpershaud in the Alwar States; and with the able co-operation of Captain Birch, and his means from Ajmere, the lists of our arrests soon began to swell, and every day added to our knowledge and capabilities for putting down these free booters.

But this state of things soon began to excite the jealousy and displeasure of the Chiefs and native authorities of the independent States, who saw the danger of losing such profitable colonists, it being an acknowledged fact, that twenty-five per cent. of all spoil, and frequently more, according to time and circumstances, was faithfully paid to the lords of the soil, who gave them shelter: Luchmun Singh, a near relative of the Kerowlee Chief, Gobind Singh, the petty Chief of Butteear, the Mama Sahib, a minister of Gwalior, and Abdool Ahud Khan, Resaldar and Koomasdar of the Gwalior Court, were notorious for their collusion with these people, and for the revenues they got from them. They opposed our undertakings in every possible way; and although it did not admit of the same proof, we had reason to believe, that the officers placed in command of the force at Gwalior, appointed to co-operate with mine, were all, more or less, favorable to the Decoits, and managed on every occasion, to defeat my plans, either by giving previous intimation, losing their way, or firing off guns, as assumed by accident, at the moment that, otherwise, success would have been certain.

My constant references and complaints of their half measures perplexed the Durbar, and they tried on several occasions to get the whole management of the pursuit out of my hands, which I, as often

opposed, with the ready aid of Colonel Speirs, the Resident. They then endeavored to get rid of my Tomandar, Sheopershaud, whose faithfulness to his trust had excited their enmity, and when they could prove none of their false charges against him, demanded his immediate withdrawal. Fortunately about this time, the celebrated Jemadar, Gujraj Singh, who had been so long driven from post to pillar, seeing that he had little chance of eventual escape, and impoverished by the exorbitant demands of his old friends and protectors, (on one occasion the Butteear Chief made him pay four thousand rupees and some jewels before he would admit him into his fort, from the hot pursuit of my people; at that time he made his escape in the garb of a woman, and the Chief's conduct was punished, I believe, either by fine, or admonition, by Colonel Sutherland), surrendered himself up, with twenty-five followers, to Buhadoor Khan, Major Risaldar of the Gwalior Troops. I immediately demanded the custody of these persons. This was at first conceded, but at the instigation of the Mama Sahib, then one of the most influential ministers of Sindeeah's Court, they were reclaimed, and a great deal of correspondence ensued between yourself, the Resident, and the Durbar. They at length refused to deliver them, unless I attended in person at Gwalior, and committed them for trial before the Resident, and two Native Chiefs as assessors.

By your directions, I consequently proceeded to Gwalior, with my approvers, cases, &c., and arraigned them before that tribunal. My approvers were not permitted to see the prisoners, until confronted for trial, nor were their names made known; as one prisoner was introduced at one door, I called an approver in at the opposite one, and took the recognition and evidence. He was then sent under a guard by a third door, to be kept separate till the next prisoner was produced.

In this way I convicted them, as fast as they were brought, to the entire satisfaction of the assessors, who had their secretaries, and cross-examined the witnesses at their pleasure.

But this was not the style of thing the Mama Sahib (whose sepoy had charge of the prisoners) wished for, or expected; and after going through this process with about twenty, one morning the assessors omitted to attend, and information was sent to say, that through the negligence of the guard, during the rainy night, the rest of the twenty-five and one hundred others, who had come in, had effected their escape. So ended these trials; but I had arranged, that all who were proved guilty, should be made over to me, and thus my labor was not in vain. I had secured Jemadar Gujraj Singh, amongst the rest of all Budhuks

the most notorious. He was transported for life ; the others were imprisoned for limited periods.

This Gujraj had risen from the vocation of a Bunder-walla, to be the Robin Hood of the Gwalior and adjacent States ; he was the governor general of banditti in that country of banditti, and kept the whole in awe ; he had made himself so formidable, that the Durbar appointed him to keep the ghats (ferries over the Chumbul), which he did in a very profitable manner to them and himself, and none entered, or quitted the country without paying black mail ; his influence with the Budhuk gangs was paramount. On my approvers being introduced to him in the Court, although purposely placed in a mixed crowd, the recognition was complete, for each in turn treated him with the most profound respect and humble obeisance.

The arrest of this Jemadar was a death blow to the Budhuks in this neighbourhood, and the breaking up of the gangs generally ensued ; they dispersed to other quarters, some to the Oude territory, others to the Nepaul Turae ; and, I am credibly informed, several gangs have been seen under old leaders, prowling about the Punjaub.

One hunt after these people was so similar to another, that it would be tiresome to recount many ; the results of all were favorable ; and, although the scene was generally jungles, and amongst a population favorable to the Decoits, neither that, nor the known bravery of the Budhuks, hindered our success ; and very few of my establishment were wounded, whereas many suffered on their side.

It was in one of these onsets from the Kerowlee party, under Meer Jaffir Alli Tomandar, that a celebrated Budhuk Jemadar, Balkisson (one hundred and fifty rupees reward, offered for him), was killed. My party started in the evening of 15th March 1841, travelled all night, and reached the Budhuk haunts about Raja-de-ke-poorwa, early the next morning ; after some search, they came upon the Decoits, and a fight ensued ; Dabee Singh Hurkaru, and Peer Khan Nujeeb, distinguished themselves, and were both severely wounded ; the former after trying in vain to seize the Jemadar alive, dealt him a mortal blow. His head was severed from his body, and sent in to me by a camel messenger ; on its reaching me, I placed it in front of my office door, and called the approvers one by one to see it ; a great number recognized it instantly as the head of Balkisson. Dabee Singh Hurkaru was made a Nujeeb, and Peer Khan promoted to lance duffadar.

On an attack made by Seopershaud from the Gwalior party, 14th December 1839, upon Gujraj and his gang, Bilasa Jemadar, son of Gujraj, and Chuttra, his son-in-law, were killed in the encounter : Isre

Sing, Nujeeb of my party, was severely wounded ; Gujraj, with difficulty, got away.

Moonshee Nurainpershaud, with his party, was equally successful in the Alwar and Bhurtpoor States, and completely routed all the Budhuks from the ancient location of Manickpoor Gotra, arrested many, and amongst them Soojan Singh Jemadar, a great man of the Budhuk class, who had long held a jagheer from His Highness the Maha Rajah of Alwar, on the understanding that he and his tribes should abstain from Decoitee in that territory, which confidence, however, he abused, and made his place a refuge for all fugitive gangs. This Soojan Singh could never be brought fully to reveal his career, and he made many attempts to bribe others to similar silence. The jagheer has been resumed by the Alwar Chief.

Nurainpershaud, in his absence in the Alwar State, discovered the perpetrators (and arrested some of them) of the Buhadoorgurh Decoitee, which took place 19th July 1839, and recovered some of the property ; the Nawab of Buhadoorgurh has, however, failed to pay the reward of 1,000 rupees, which he proclaimed his promise to give.

One of the most remarkable characters amongst the Budhuks at my Court, was Ajeet Singh Jemadar, whom you directed me to get from the Agra jail on 15th April 1839, where he was under imprisonment, charged with the commission of the Lohar-ke-mundi Decoitee, but falsely so, as appeared, when I brought the real culprits to conviction. As you have published a pamphlet of this man's career, I need not further allude to him, except to say, that after doing good service at your Court, as well as mine, he was made a native officer in one of the Bundelcund Police Battalions, and, I believe, was afterwards killed on service against the insurgents.

Ramjeet Jemadar was another most remarkable personage ; he came to me, with five or six followers, almost immediately after my measures became rigorous, 18th July 1839, and offered his services as a Jemadar approver, if I would give him twenty rupees per mensem, and the whole party perwanahs of exemption from punishment for the offences they had committed. After much demur and correspondence with you on the subject, as he was a man of so much note, and his information and ability so great, it was considered by you advisable to accede to his demand, which I accordingly did, with the covenant on his part to reveal all his offences, and give up the names of his accomplices, in failure of which, the exemption was to be null and void. I was disappointed in his undertakings while detached, and suspected much deception in his details of events. You sent for him to your Court,

when the spell, with which he appeared to be bound at Agra, was broken, and he deposed to forty-two cases, amongst others, to the Lohar-ke-mundi case, which I was then preparing for trial. This case of Decoitee took place in the house of Beerbul, an ironmonger, when one person was killed, and sixteen were wounded, and property to the amount of five thousand seven hundred and ninety-four rupees, eight annas taken; it was so glaring a case, having been perpetrated in a crowded part of the suburbs of Agra, close to the Lieutenant Governor's gate, that it caused much sensation at the time, and the Magistrate made known to his subordinates, that, if the parties were not discovered and brought to trial in six months, they should all be discharged from office. Failing to find the real offenders, a false case was made up, in which the then kotwal of Agra, Gholam Hoosein, was the chief instigator, and Danna, the Budhuk, employed in the Police, the chief evidence—he, being the father of this Ramjeet Singh, was too glad to be empowered to concoct a case which should screen his son. Ajeet Singh Jemadar, and others were arrested; false witnesses found to describe and swear to a very pretty plot; the party was convicted at the Sessions Court, but released, on account of insufficient evidence, by the Sudder Nizamut Adawlut. Ramjeet's full confession before you brought all this affair to light, and my real case to maturity; but the day previously to its coming on before the Judge, I became, by accident, aware of the machinations on foot by the above-mentioned kotwal, to destroy my case, and save his own reputation: he had bribed the most influential approvers—this Ramjeet at the head of them—with money and engagements to provide for their families, to deny their evidence, and substantiate the false case; they were in ignorance of my knowledge of their perfidy, until they were in the Sessions Court, and all arraigned before the Judge, to be tried for the case.

When, to their surprise, they found that I had turned my calendar upside down, and the evidence of those not in the plot, being taken first and considered ample, the whole were found guilty. Those approvers, who had been faithful, had their purwanahs of exemption from death, or transportation, to present, but the treacherous ones having broken their contract, had forfeited all claim to indulgence, and this Ramjeet returned to my Court a convict in irons; he made several ineffectual efforts to escape, one desperate one on his way back, when he nearly strangled one of his guard, and leapt a broad ditch. He was, by the sentence of the Nizamut Adawlut, transported beyond seas.

When too late, both he and his father voluntarily betrayed the whole plot, and bemoaned his folly in having been seduced by the kotwal and his company.

I find nothing further in my records of sufficient interest to relate, excepting that on one occasion, about thirty of the worst of my prisoners, whom I kept in the Agra great jail, cut their irons off simultaneously, with thread made from their clothes, and covered with gum and powdered glass, &c. &c., and endeavored to escape; the burkundazes were on the alert, and cut down eleven of them—four effected their escape, and the rest were seized.

Herewith I transmit a list of the Budhuk colonies, according to the best information I could collect, on entering upon the pursuit. I am not aware of one remaining at the present time, and it is now many months since I arrested one of the class: I do not even hear of them in my district, and no Decoitee has been perpetrated by them in my circle, to my knowledge, for the last two years.

I also transmit lists of all the cases, upon which I have taken evidence in my Court, and of the Jemadars and Thokedars arrested by me.

I regret that the translations of narratives of the approvers, required by you, cannot at present be furnished, as they are in the files of proceedings of cases at the different Courts. Your proceeding of 26th July 1841, directing a separate book of them to be kept, (received during my absence at Simla on sick leave) was only this day seen by me, and was not, I am sorry to say, attended to.

I have, &c. &c.,

(Signed) J. GRAHAM,

Asst. Genl. Supt. and Joint Magt.

AGRA,

10th July, 1845.

Captain Riddell was sent to Indore to conduct the duties of the department over Malwa in February 1840; and he was very successful in his exertions, supported as he was cordially by the Resident, Sir C. M. Wade. He was, however, obliged to proceed with his Regiment to Afghanistan, under General Pollock, on the 23rd of December 1841, and the duties of the department devolved upon Captain Harris, one of the Assistants to the Resident, who conducted them as an extra Assistant Commissioner, and received an extra allowance of two hundred rupees a month from the Indore Government. He has conducted them very efficiently under the supervision and control of Mr. R. N. C. Hamilton, who succeeded Sir C. M. Wade, as Resident at that Court, and has given

him at all times the most cordial support and encouragement. The appended table of trials will show the number of international offenders arrested and committed for trial by him, and every other officer of the department under my control.

Having given the narrative of the pursuit after the Bagree Decoits by Captain Birch and Major Graham, in their own words, I must now state that this pursuit was kept up with no less zeal, skill, and success, throughout Malwa and Guzerat, by Captains Riddell and Harris, and throughout the Gwalior and Bundelcund States, by Captain Ellis. Captains Riddell

* BAGREES	
Sentenced to imprisonment for life	8
Limited imprisonment	39
Sent for trial to other districts	2
Died	2
Released	4
	<hr/>
	55

and Harris, from Indore, seized fifty-five Bagrees, and sixty of the Mogheea Decoits, who were disposed of as per margin.*

MOGHEEAS		
Sentenced to imprisonment for life	...	3
Limited imprisonment	.....	45
Sent for trial to other districts	.....	2
Died	.....	2
Released	.....	8
		<hr/>
		60
		<hr/>
Total		115

Captain Ellis secured one hundred and seventy-four, part of whom were arrested, and the rest driven to the necessity of surrendering to him by the active and simultaneous pursuit in all parts of the country, and they were disposed of as per margin.† At Indore, as in Rajpootana, too many of these atrocious robbers, by hereditary profession, have been sentenced to imprisonment for short periods, and must soon be released to return to their trade, which they assuredly will, the moment they are at liberty.

† BAGEERS	
Sentenced to imprisonment for life	124
Limited imprisonment	2
Sent for trial to other districts	2
Died	7
Escaped from the Fort of Gwalior after sentence	9
Released	30
<hr/>	
Total	174

Of these, who surrendered on a promise of conditional pardon, such as were deemed fit, were enlisted into Police battalions and establishments, under sanction of Government, conveyed in a letter, dated the 24th of May 1843, and, with rare exceptions, have been found exceedingly well fitted for the duties. Dispersed over all India in such establishments, and never in any number together, they are fast losing their exclusive language, which neither they, nor their children, ever speak, and becoming blended with the rest of society in habit and feeling. There is not a single leader or member of a gang of any note now at large; and the greater part of such as have escaped our pursuit have entered into service, or taken to other honest employments among those to whom their character is unknown; and we are not aware of any

gang being at their old trade, or of any colony from whom a gang could be formed. Bengal Proper is beyond my supervision.

The location of some of the unconditionally pardoned Bagree Decoits of the Oude Turae, upon an experimental farm in the Goruckpoor district, is as yet thriving under strict surveillance ; but under the greatest possible care and most favorable circumstances, it must be one of great risk. The little colony will keep up their exclusive language, habits, and feelings, and cherish the recollections of the wealth, distinction, forest-freedom and sports, enjoyed by their ancestors ; and the able-bodied and enterprising from among them, will take advantage of any opportunities that may offer to return to the trade. Captain Ward's last report of this colony, dated 12th February 1848, will be found among the appendices.

CHAPTER XII.

SAUSEEA DECOITS.

While we were engaged in these inquiries, concerning the Budhuk, *alias* Bagree, gangs, several serious cases of Decoitee occurred within the range of their depredations, evidently committed by robbers, acting precisely upon the same system, but unconnected with them. Officers of the department covered the whole area of their homes and depredations, but with the exception to be hereafter noticed, no one could gain the slightest information regarding the perpetrators of these Decoitees, though all the Budhuks, employed under them, were evidently anxious to distinguish themselves by the discovery—they seemed, like North American Indians, whose hunting grounds had been invaded by a new and unknown tribe, or like Robinson Crusoe, when he discovered the print of a man's foot on the sand.

One of these Decoitees took place in the midst of the cantonments of Hooshungabad, on the 31st March 1840, when all the regiment turned out to intercept the robbers in their retreat, and all the available cavalry were sent in pursuit, but in vain—no trace of them could be found. Property, to the value of between three and four thousand rupees, was carried off. Another took place in the city of Gwalior, on the 5th May 1841, while Captain Ellis, with his Bagree approvers, was close by. One man was killed, and two more were wounded; and property, to the value of above six thousand rupees, was carried off. Another took place at Nurwur, in the same State, on the 19th March 1841. Another, in which one man was killed, and six were wounded, and property, to the value of two thousand six hundred rupees, was carried off, took place at Banda, on the 7th of February 1842, while Lieutenant Nation, one of my Assistants, was encamped close by with Budhuk approvers. Another took place four days after, on the 11th of February, in the town of Jhalone; four men were wounded, and property, to the value of above three thousand rupees, was carried off. Another, in which four men were killed, and property, to the value of three thousand rupees, was carried off, took place at Kota, on the 1st January 1840; and another at

Tonk, on the 19th March 1841, in which two men were killed. Another in the city of Nagpoor, on the 31st January 1841, in which property, to the value of three thousand rupees, was carried off. Another, on the 5th March 1842, in the town of Chunar, in the Mirzapoor district. Another, in the city of Nagpoor, on the 7th February 1843. Another, at Daood-nugur, in the Guya district, on the 13th of April 1844, in which two men were killed, and three wounded, and property, to the value of above three thousand rupees, was carried off. Another, on the 29th May 1845, in the city of Patna, in which four men were killed, and fourteen wounded, and property, to the value of two thousand five hundred rupees, was carried off.

All these cases bore evident signs of having been perpetrated by professional robbers, no less skilled in their trade than the Budhuks themselves ; but it was quite clear to us, that they were unconnected with, and unknown to our Budhuk approvers, who had recorded narratives of their lives, and entered in our registers the names of all their tribes, who were known to them. All declared that the depredators must be from some foreign state unknown to them, and seem mortified at the thought of not being able to trace such formidable gangs of their own profession, following so closely their own system and poaching, as it were, upon their own hunting grounds. They were also afraid that they might be suspected of a general combination to deceive the employers, who provided for them and their families, and treated them with so much considerate kindness.

The gang, under Dussae Jemadar, which committed the Decoitees at Banda on the 7th February 1842, retreated with their booty westward, across the rivers Dusan, Betwa, and Scind, to Kalabagh, in the Gwalior State, where they joined the gang under Chukore Jemadar, which committed the Decoitee at Jhalone four days after, on the 11th February 1842. Here they had a dispute, about the division of some spoil, in December 1842, and Dussae was killed by some of Chukore's gang, after which they proceeded to the jungles near Seepree to complete their festivities ; but Dussae's widow, Joharee, went off in her anger to Captain Ellis, the Assistant to the Resident at Gwalior, who had charge of the duties of the department over that State, and described, as well as she could, the whole affair. Captain Ellis immediately sent off Saligram, a smart Native officer, with a party of Nujeebs, who succeeded in arresting fifteen of the gang at the place pointed out by the angry widow. Three of the gang confessed, when taken before Captain Ellis, and tendered their services for the pursuit of their associates. Up to this time, all efforts to discover any trace of the two gangs, who perpetrated the Banda and Jhalone Decoitees, had failed, though liberal offers of rewards had been

made. Phauseea, one of the three confessing prisoners, acknowledged that he had assisted at the Banda Decoitee; and Zabita and Alija, the two others, declared that they were present at that in Jhalone, which took place only four days after, 11th February 1842.

Phauseea described the Banda Decoitee, as follows, to Captain Ellis:—

“Phauseea, when afterwards cross-examined, stated, that they were
 “Decoits, as their forefathers had been, by profession, and wandered
 “about the country, encamping in huts made of *sirkee*, as an ostensible
 “means of livelihood, frequenting the suburbs of some large city,
 “generally in the Dakhan, during the rains, when the difficulty of
 “escape, on account of the state of the roads, rendered Decoitee impracticable. With regard to the Banda Decoitee, he stated, that the gang,
 “consisting of fifteen Decoits, accompanied by their wives and children,
 “started from Kajan, near Seepree, in the cold weather, on a Decoitee
 “expedition, and passing through Jhansee, arrived and encamped at
 “Srinagur, eighteen coss from Banda. Dasai, the leader, attended by
 “Ghassi and two of the women, left the gang at this place, and passing
 “themselves off as *bhats* or bards, went to Banda, and under pretence
 “of getting money changed, visited, and made their observations on the
 “premises of a Mahajan’s shop, which they proposed attacking, or, in
 “the slang language of the tribe, laid the *tak*, that is, planned the
 “Decoitee. After settling the plan of attack, they buried bamboos, one
 “for each of the party to be employed in the bed of a nulla, and rejoined
 “their associates at Srinagur, when the camp advanced to a place still
 “seven coss distant from Banda; on the day fixed for the Decoitee, two
 “of the gang, being left in charge of the women and the beasts of burden,
 “with orders to be on the alert, and ready at a moment’s notice for a
 “move, Dasai and twelve others, carrying spear heads, two or three
 “hatchets, and a *mussal*, or torch, concealed about them, left the
 “encampments about noon, and, travelling in different parties, arrived
 “by different routes at the place, where the spear shafts were buried, about
 “dusk. Ghassi was then sent into the city to ascertain that all was
 “favorable; and, having returned with information that nothing was
 “suspected, the bamboos were dug up, and the spear heads fitted on to
 “them. On entering the city, four men were stationed to guard the
 “avenue, through which assistance, if brought from the Police guard,
 “must pass; two to guard the entrance from the bazar, and one at the
 “gateway of the serai; the remaining five, after lighting their torches,
 “rushed into the house, broke open a chest, and carried away property,
 “to the value of two thousand rupees. Phauseea, who was stationed at
 “the gateway of the serai, received a blow on the head, which knocked
 “off his turban, and which, in the hurry of escape, was left behind,
 “stained with blood, with some spear heads. After deposing to the
 “above effect, Phauseea, a prisoner in irons, was sent to Banda, and

“ cross-examined by the Magistrate, regarding his knowledge of the
 “ affair on the premises, where the Decoitee took place. He immediately
 “ recognized his turban and the spear heads, pointed out the different
 “ places where the gang assembled, where the bamboos were buried, and
 “ avenues guarded ; some *gota*, lace, found in the possession of the
 “ gang, when they were arrested, was also at the same time identified by
 “ the owners before the Magistrate, who was perfectly satisfied that
 “ Phauseea was speaking the truth. He was committed for trial at
 “ Jhansee in 1843, and sentenced to imprisonment for life in irons, but
 “ has been pardoned conditionally in consideration of his services as
 “ an approver, and is now employed as such at Jhansee—the sentence
 “ passed being suspended over him, pending good behaviour. Besides
 “ the Banda, he has confessed to having been present at six other
 “ Decoitees, during the six years previous to his arrest, five of which
 “ have been verified by reference to the different local authorities where
 “ they occurred.”

Captain Ellis gives Alija's narrative of the Jhalone Decoitee, as follows, and Zabita confirmed all he stated :

“ Was arrested as above. When examined before me in April 1843,
 “ he confessed to being, as his forefathers had been before him, a Decoit
 “ by profession ; and to having been present at six different Decoitees,
 “ during the six years preceding his arrest, each of which has been ascer-
 “ tained, by reference to the different local authorities, to have taken place,
 “ as deposed to by him, between the years 1837 and 1843, the year of his
 “ arrest. With regard to the Jhalone Decoitee, on the house of Behari
 “ shroff, when property to the value of three thousand one hundred and
 “ eighty-eight rupees was carried away, he stated, that it was committed
 “ by a gang of about fifty Sansia Decoits, men and women, under Ram
 “ Sing, *alias* Chukore, Jemadar, now an approver at Indore, and was a
 “ distinct gang from the one which committed the Banda Decoitee.
 “ Chukore, the gang to which he belonged, started from Kalabagh,
 “ Gwalior, in the cold weather ; and after travelling for about eighteen
 “ days, arrived at Mote, fifteen coss from Jhalone, where they encamped
 “ with the intention, should circumstances prove favorable, of committing
 “ a Decoitee in Jhalone. Chukore, accompanied by Gokala, Ujanja, and
 “ Mageea, leaving the rest of the gang encamped at Mote, started for
 “ Jhalone ; and after making a few inquiries in the city, under pretence
 “ of business, visited the Mahajan's shop, and examined the premises.
 “ They made their observations regarding the place where the Mahajan
 “ kept his money, and the different avenues at which it would be
 “ necessary to have parties stationed, to guard against surprise, and
 “ buried bamboos outside the city, one for each of the gang, in a field
 “ near a well, about a mile off the high road, without having excited

" suspicion, and rejoined the rest of the gang at Mote. Having related,
 " what they had done, to the rest of the gang, it was decided that
 " the Decoitee should be attempted ; and the camp was advanced to a
 " place still seven coss distant from the proposed scene of action.
 " On the day settled for the Decoitee, Chukore, and twenty-two other
 " Decoits, carrying spear heads, hatchets, and a *mussal*, or torch,
 " concealed about them, and leaving the rest of the party encamped
 " with the women, children, ponies, and other beasts of burden, started
 " for Jhalone, and travelling in parties of four or five by different
 " roads, assembled near the well, where the bamboos were buried, about
 " dusk. After digging up the bamboos, and fitting on the spear heads,
 " they entered the city, and succeeded in reaching the Mahajan's shop,
 " without having created alarm. On approaching the shop, a boy, the
 " only person at the time in it, ran away, giving the alarm, and calling
 " out, that the Decoits had attacked his master's house. Eleven of the
 " gang took their posts to guard the different avenues assigned to them
 " beforehand, while the remainder lighted the torch, rushed into the
 " house, and carried away cash, gold and silver ornaments, to the value of
 " about two thousand rupees, from a closet, which they found with the
 " door open. There was a deep pit inside the house, in which property
 " to a large amount was buried, which the Decoits tried to fathom with
 " their spears, but, being unable to reach the bottom, were afraid to
 " venture down it. They were pursued for some distance by the Police,
 " but none of them were seized. On reaching a place, about three coss
 " from Jhalone, the booty was made up into bundles—the Decoits being
 " searched to prevent their keeping back any part of it. They halted
 " the next day at the same encamping ground, contrary to usage, in
 " consequence of its being daylight before they returned with their
 " loads, having passed themselves off as returning from a marriage pro-
 " cession, to a person whom they met on the road. After deposing to
 " the above effect, Alija was sent a prisoner in irons to Jhalone, and
 " cross-examined on the Mahajan's premises, by the Assistant Superin-
 " tendent in charge. He pointed out, without hesitation, the well where
 " the gang drank water, the gram field near it where they dug up the
 " bamboos, the path by which they entered and returned from the city,
 " the closet in which they found the property, and the dry well, which
 " they were afraid to venture down, so as to leave no doubt upon the
 " mind of the Magistrate, that he was speaking the truth. He was
 " committed for trial in 1844, and sentenced to imprisonment for life in
 " irons, but was conditionally pardoned, and has been since employed as
 " an approver—the sentence being suspended over him, pending good
 " behaviour."*

* This account corresponds with that given by Chukore of the affair, before Captain Harris at Indore.

Captain Ellis, after taking down the narratives of the confessing prisoners, in the usual manner, and giving them the certificate of conditional pardon, sent them in pursuit of their associates still at large, under a smart Native officer, Esuree Persaud, and a party of his Nujeebs, who arrested thirteen more—two on the 24th March, four on the 12th, and seven on the 15th of July 1843, all in the district of Hooshungabad, in the valley of the Nerbudda. Captain Ellis placed some of his Native officers and Nujeebs, with others of the gang, who had been induced to confess and tender their services, under Captain Dewar, who commanded a detachment of the contingent at Goona, on the great Bombay road, midway between Gwalior and Indore, and he arrested four more of the gang; and Captain Raikes, who succeeded him in the command of that post, followed up the pursuit, and arrested four more. One of them, a noted leader, Sarban, was arrested in the city of Nagpoor, four hundred miles from Goona, while purchasing cloth at a merchant's shop, which he would probably soon after have plundered, had his career not been there cut short. He was arrested by a party of Captain Ellis' Nujeebs, under a Native officer, Gunga Deen Misser, with whom Captain Raikes had sent from Goona, a party of Marhatta horse from his own detachment at Goona.

Sarban was taken to Captain Ramsay, the Assistant Resident, in charge of the duties of the department over that State ; but seeing none of his old associates here, save those sent by Captain Raikes, likely to recognise, or know any thing about him, he denied that he had ever been engaged in Decoitee, or knew any thing about Decoits. He was sent off to Goona, and there confronted with more of his old associates before Captain Dewar, who had resumed the command of that post from Captain Raikes. Deeming it useless any longer to deny his trade, he made a full confession, and recorded, in the usual manner, a narrative of his life of crime. He had been engaged in the Patna Decoitee, which took place on the 29th of May 1845, and always considered as one of their most able men. Mundhir, the chief leader in that Decoitee, and brother of Gunput Row, another leader of note, states before Captain Clarke, at Patna, in September 1847, when asked who was the cleverest Decoit he had ever known—"Sarban was the cleverest I have ever known in getting information, and making arrangements—I consider that I was myself the boldest, and next, but not quite equal to me, was my brother Gunput Row."

The following are Captain Ellis' remarks on the arrest of Sarban :

"Was arrested by a party of Nujeebs, under Gunga Deen Misser, detached by Captain Raikes from Goona, while in the act of purchasing

“ cloth at a Mahajan's shop at Nagpoor. When examined, a few days afterwards, by Captain Ramsay, Assistant General Superintendent at Nagpoor, he boldly asserted his innocence ; but, on being examined by Captain Dewar, at Goona, in February 1846, finding that he was about to be confronted with other Decoits, who had been associated with him from his youth, in deeds of plunder, he confessed to having been present in eighteen different Decoitees, eleven of which have been already verified on reference to the local authorities, in whose districts they were perpetrated. He stated that the last Decoitee, at which he had been present, was at Patna, and that eight of his associates, and seventeen of the women, had been arrested, eighteen days after the Decoitee, while in the act of burying the daughter of Paujab, one of the gang, at Ranchi, by a party of mounted and foot police from Patna ; that he escaped himself at the time by running away, and having returned four days afterwards to the place, where the party arrested were still encamped, he sent a dog in among the prisoners, which being recognised by his wife, Jagee, she advanced, and under pretence of separating two ponies fighting, raised her voice, and in the slang language of the gang, told him that the Police had dug up the booty buried with the body of the child, and they had no chance of escape. As the confession of Sarban appeared honest, a reference was immediately made to the Magistrate at Patna for information regarding the Decoitee, should it have occurred ; the reply to which stated that the information given by Sarban was perfectly correct—a most serious Decoitee, attended with the murder of four persons, and the wounding of fourteen others, had taken place at Patna, on 29th May 1845 ; that eight of the Decoits, six of whom had been sentenced to punishment, had been arrested as stated by him, and that two others were about to be released, for want of evidence, by the Sessions Judge. The two prisoners about to be released, Nos. 37 and 38, were transferred to this office, and have been sentenced to punishment, as stated in the remarks opposite their names. Sarban was sentenced to imprisonment for life in irons, but has been pardoned conditionally, in consideration of services performed as an approver, in which capacity he is now employed under the orders of Captain Ramsay, extra Assistant General Superintendent at Nagpoor.”

All arrested, in this manner, by Captains Ellis, Dewar, and Raikes, were committed for trial before the Resident at Gwalior, and the assessor on the part of the Durbar, or sent to Captain Harris, the Assistant Resident at Indore, who had charge of the duties of the department over Malwa, to be committed before the Resident at the Court of Holkar. A great many confessed, and recorded narratives of their lives, and lists of their associates, and received the conditional pardon. By their means

many others were arrested in Malwa by Captain Harris, and tried, in the same manner, by the Resident at Indore. Sarban was sent to Captain Sleeman at Jubulpoor, who sent him on to Captain Ramsay at Nagpoor, who began at last to entertain hopes of being able to put down the gangs, by whom so many atrocious Decoitees and murders had been of late perpetrated in different parts of the Nagpoor territory, and in the neighbouring districts, belonging to the British Government. The Police officers of our districts here, as every where else, always endeavour to persuade the Magistrates, that every robbery is committed by offenders, who reside in the nearest neighbouring Native State; and though it is known that many atrocious gangs of robbers and murderers have resided in our districts, and been protected and encouraged by our landholders, while they extended their depredations over Native States, as well as over our own distant possessions, it is equally well known, that the greater part of the Decoitees, which take place in our Saugor territories, are really committed by gangs, who reside in the hills and jungles of the bordering districts of Nagpoor, Hyderabad, Bhopaul, and Gwalior.

Captain Elwall, who conducted the duties of the department in the province of Behar, had sent to Captain Ramsay the information, which he had been able to elicit from the confessing prisoners at Patna, regarding their associates, and the parts where they had of late chiefly resided, at Ogul, in the Hyderabad territory, and latterly at Deokur, in the wilds of Chuteesgur, in the Nagpoor territory. Making a judicious use of the means and information thus provided for him, Captain Ramsay soon began to see his way, and make progress. While, however, he was planning an attack upon Gunput Row, who, after his flight from Patna, had collected the remnants of the old gangs at Deokur, the Subah, or Governor of that part of the Nagpoor country, under a vague suspicion, that they were bad characters, made an unsuccessful attempt to secure them with his own means.

The gang, in consequence, left that part of the country to cross the Sathpoor, Kymoor, and Vindeya ranges of hills, into the valley of the Ganges, and attempt some enterprise in the commercial town of Mirzapoor. The Subah, however, had secured, with many of the women and children, the father, son, and daughter of Sarban. Gunput Row did not care about the arrest of the old father, but he was very anxious to get back the son of Sarban, in order to have him as a hostage, and to prevent his disclosing the circumstances of a Decoitee, in which the boy had been lately associated with him, in the cantonments of the subsidiary force at Kamptee. He sent off women and members of his gang, well supplied with money, to obtain his release, but they were secured by

Captain Ramsay, who now felt strong in means, and fully assured of the most cordial support from the Prince and Court of Nagpoor.

Gunput Row and his gang now felt that they had no longer the ordinary Police upon their trail, and made all haste towards the valley of the Ganges. A detachment was sent in pursuit, composed of a very smart officer of the Decoitee Toman, Mahboob Khan, with seven of his Nujeebs, and an officer, no less smart, Shureef-od-Deen, with twelve Sipahcees, from the Rajah's Police. I shall give the narrative of the pursuit and capture of the leader, Gunput Row, and thirteen of his followers, in May 1847, in Captain Ramsay's own words.

" In the hot season of 1845, a Decoitee was committed in the city of Patna, by a large gang, led by two brothers, Mundhir and Gunput Row, Jemadars, who had some time been located, first at Ooghal, in the Hyderabad district, and afterwards at Deokur, in the wilds of Chutteesghur, in the territories of the Rajah of Nagpoor : eight of the Decoits engaged in that affair were apprehended by Captain Elwall, who sent me a list of the accomplices they had denounced, and informed me of the circumstances of the colony located at Deokur. I immediately communicated on this subject with Captain Sleeman, who kindly placed at my disposal a smart and willing approver, on whose arrival at Nagpoor, in December 1846, I planned the seizure of the gang. I was not long in obtaining information of them ; but, to my disappointment, they were placed on the *qui vive*, by an ill arranged attempt of the Soobah of Raecpoor to seize them. He arrested two old men, and a number of women and children—all the active members of the gang having made their escape when he attacked their village. He was not aware of these persons really being Decoits, but his suspicions were excited by the manner in which they lived—having no ostensible means of gaining money, whilst at the same time they possessed a liberal command of it. Gunput Row often gave away in charity, from five to ten rupees per diem, to the poor of Deokur, and the neighbouring villages.

" Amongst the persons arrested by the Soobah of Raecpoor, were the son and daughter of Sarban, approver, through whom I ascertained, that Gunput Row, Jemadar, and his gang were wandering about the jungle districts to the northward, on the banks of the Nerbudda, in the zemindarree of the Gundaie Ranee. Mahboob Khan, Duffadar of Nujeebs, accompanied by Shureef-od-Deen, a Duffadar of the Nagpoor Police, who had been placed at his disposal by the Soobah of Raecpoor, immediately proceeded in that direction, and scoured the country for many miles around. They could not obtain information or assistance, and the villagers, *when they fell in with them*, would not even sell them food ; they were, consequently, exposed to consider-

“able distress, and sometimes to no little danger. By their zeal and activity, however, they succeeded, after they had been in the jungles for nearly three weeks, in obtaining traces of Gunput Row, which led them to believe, that he had crossed over the Omerkuntuck range into the Company’s provinces. At the temple at Omerkuntuck, they learnt that a party, answering to the description of Gunput Row’s gang, had passed that mountain about fifteen days before. This did not disconcert them, and they determined to continue their pursuit. On arriving at a place called Oomnia, they ascertained that some suspicious persons had passed through that village about four days before, and were then at Kaira, forty miles distant—one of them having purchased a poney of the Patel of Oomnia, which he had just sent for to that place. The Duffadar and his party forthwith proceeded to Kaira, which they reached the same afternoon. It was the season of the Hoolee, and the villagers were there celebrating that festival.

“On nearing the village, the Duffadar concealed his men in a nullah, whilst he proceeded, in the disguise of a fakeer, to search for the Decoits. After some little difficulty, (for he was himself at first an object of suspicion) he succeeded in eliciting from the Zemindar, that some strangers were encamped on the banks of the Nuddee, near the village, who helped themselves unceremoniously to whatever they required—wood, grass, &c. &c., and that they were troublesome persons, and would offer resistance, if any one attempted to seize them. The Duffadar proceeded to the place where they were seated, cooking their meals ; and being convinced that these were the Decoits he was in pursuit of, he arranged with the Zemindar, that he should bring his party into the village, one by one, from their place of concealment, and joining in the Hoolee procession and games, they should all go down to the Decoits, and ask them for a present, *when*, at a given signal, his men should arrest them. This stratagem was successful, and the Decoits had no suspicions of the proximity of their pursuers until suddenly one of their women (now in confinement here) recognised the Raepoor Duffadar, and gave the alarm. It was too late, however, for the Nujcebs had disposed themselves so as to pinion the Decoits, and were only awaiting the signal to do so, when the woman spoke. The Decoits attempted to escape, but all who were present were instantly seized, including Gunput Row Jemadar himself. Six of his followers, who were absent in the village, or its neighbourhood, managed to get away, but one of them was caught two days afterwards, by a Chuprassee and others, in charge of the fetters, who had been unable to keep up in the *dour*, and three others were seized in the Nagpoor territories some months afterwards.

“On the approver being brought forward to identify the prisoners, they all confessed who they were, and Gunput Row stated, that he was

“ on his way towards Mirzapoor, in the Honorable Company’s territories,
 “ with the intention of committing a Decoitee in that city. I learnt
 “ from him that Ghatkia Jemadar, and a large body of Decoits, had separated
 “ from his gang at Deokur, and that he believed that they were
 “ still in the Nagpoor district. He volunteered to track and seize them,
 “ so I at once made him an approver, and also admitted, as approvers,
 “ three others of his gang. I lost no time in starting off the party, who
 “ fortunately succeeded in arresting Ghatkia and Mundhil, Jemadars, and
 “ Jerrao and Tumbolin, Jemadarnis, and eleven other Decoits, who were
 “ assembling to proceed on a plundering expedition into the Ganjam
 “ district determined not to return to Nagpoor for some months, having
 “ heard of Gunput Row’s arrest, and believing that parties would immediately
 “ be sent after them.

“ There is one very intelligent Decoit still at large in this district—
 “ Komtee. He is accompanied by the few members of Ghatkia’s, Gunput
 “ Row’s, and other gangs, who have not been seized, and my approvers
 “ tell me that he is likely to form a gang of his own, and become their
 “ Jemadar. My attempts to arrest him have hitherto proved unsuccessful
 “ ; but I hope, when the trials of my prisoners are concluded, and my
 “ approvers return to Nagpoor, to be able to apprehend him.

“ I am now arranging a plan of operations for the next cold season.
 “ I purpose sending parties into the Chutteesghur district, immediately
 “ after the rains, who will attend the principal fairs held there, where
 “ the Sansee Decoits are generally to be found ; and afterwards I should
 “ send them to the northward, into Deokur, above the ghats, and along
 “ the borders of the Mooltye district, where numerous Decoitees have
 “ lately occurred, and where Yenkoo Jemadar is supposed to be located
 “ with his gang. That field is a new one, and I am sanguine in my
 “ anticipations of success there, particularly as one of the best of my
 “ approvers has lately come from that quarter, and promises that he will
 “ point out several of his old accomplices, who have not yet been apprehended.

“ In the accompanying memorandum on the Sansee Bhat tribe, I
 “ have embodied such information, as I have been able to collect from my
 “ approvers, connected with their habits and customs, superstitious
 “ ceremonies, and a tradition of their descent from Sansee, the
 “ circumstances which led to their tribe becoming professional Decoits—their
 “ modes of committing Decoitee, &c. &c. I have also made out a short
 “ vocabulary of their language, which I shall be most happy to send
 “ you, should you desire it.

“ I shall feel gratified, if there is any new matter in the
 “ memorandum calculated to interest, and to throw light upon a tribe
 “ of Decoits, whose existence has only been known to us during the
 “ past few years.”

Captain Ramsay continued his pursuit, and secured, in the whole, twenty-four leaders, and members of the gangs, many of whom confessed, and recorded narratives of their lives, in which they described all the Decoitees in which they had been engaged, and named all who had been associated with them, to the number of two hundred and eighty. Some of these men had died, some had been seized and punished, and six beheaded by the Hyderabad local authorities, after a Decoitee committed by them at Balapoor, in that territory. They described no less than ninety Decoitees in different parts of India, in which they had taken a part ; and all these accounts were being carefully verified in the usual manner, by a reference to local authorities. The lists of their associates, named in the narratives, have been, or are being, sent to the other officers of the department in the different circles, over which their depredations extended, to be compared with the statements made to them in their narratives, by the confessing prisoners, of the same tribe arrested by them ; and from the whole a general register will be formed, in the usual manner, of all, whose guilty participation in crime can no longer be questioned.

I shall now mention the exception to which I have referred above, in speaking of the want of all information among the officers of the department, regarding the perpetrators of these Decoitees. Chukore, after the Decoitee at Jhalone, went back with his gang to Kalabagh, in the Gwalior State, where they were joined by Dusae, and his gang, from the Banda Decoitee ; and all united in the celebration of the Hoollee festival, and a marriage between the nephew of Chukore, and the niece of another leader, by name Dusae, commonly called the "Dakhunee," who belonged to Chukore's gang. All got drunk, a fight took place, and Dusae, the Banda leader, was killed by four of Chukore's followers, whom he had at once dismissed from the gang. The widow of Dusae went off, as above stated, to Captain Ellis at Gwalior ; and his daughter went off to her father's brother, Bisram, a noted leader of the same clan, who was in confinement under Captain Harris, at Indore. From Kalabagh, the united gangs went off to the jungles, near Seepree, where the angry feelings, which had been smothered for a few days, again broke out into an open quarrel, and two of Chukore's followers went off to the Kamasdar, or local Governor of Seepree, on the part of Gwalior, who sent a party to apprehend the whole. Disliking a close fight with men of their desperate character, the Governor's Sipahs contented themselves with firing upon them at a distance, till all the men had gone off, when they charged in upon, and made prisoners of, all the women and children. While the men were negotiating, through a neighbouring landholder, for the ransom of the women and children, they heard that Captain Ellis' Nujeebs were upon their trail, and made off to a dense jungle near the village of Dherwa, twenty miles from Seepree.

This jungle is much infested by tigers and lions ; and fourteen of the party, afraid to remain in it all night, went off, in spite of the earnest entreaties of Chukore, to spend it among the people of the village, where they were all arrested by Captain Ellis' party, very early the next morning. Chukore's and Dukunee Dusae's gang went back to Kalabagh, where they fell in with three females, belonging to their friends, who were confined in the Indore jail, who persuaded them that they had no chance of recovering their women and children, or of escaping themselves, if they remained in Upper India, and they set out on their return to the Dukun ; Dusae and his party by the direct road south, and Chukore by that leading south-east through Dumoh, Teyzgur, and Jubulpoor. In Teyzgur, Chukore and his party were arrested by the police, but released, after having been made to disgorge stolen property of some value. They then passed, through Jubulpoor and Nagpoor, to Barore, in the Hyderabad State, where Chukore had a meeting with his two sons-in-law, noted leaders of the same clan, Mundheel and Gunput Row, and was rejoined by Dusae, the Dukunee, and his party, who had picked up on the road two other parties under Ghatkia, and Tumolin, a female leader. They united in the celebration of the festival of the Dusehra, and then went on to Oudhune, where they remained idle for a month. Hearing in the bazar, in the evening, that a party of Nujeebs, from Indore, had come with Decoit approvers, they returned to their bivouac, and prepared for a start. Before daybreak, in the morning, they perceived the Nujeebs preparing to charge in upon them, and made off, leaving all their poney and baggage behind them, and proceeded, as fast as they could, to a village about twelve miles from Jogee Peth.

Their funds had run out, and they were under the necessity of making some effort to replenish them: scouts were sent into the town of Jogee Peth, and a merchant's shop was selected. This they attacked systematically in the usual way, and got between twelve and thirteen hundred rupees ; but, while making off with it, Madhoo, Chukore's brother, got a slight cut in the head, with a sword, from a Sipah. They proceeded with this booty, to a place called Goona, in the Purguuna of Omar Khair, in the Hyderabad territory, where they intended to stay during the rains, which were about to set in. In this neighbourhood, Chukore remained inactive for eleven months. He was encamped at Oklee, in the Hyderabad territory, when he heard that a party of Nujeebs and Thug approvers, had come from Hyderabad, to disinter some dead bodies murdered in the neighbourhood ; and as he thought none of them could know him, he determined to remain, and gratify his curiosity. The party first went to the village, but did not find the people very hospitably disposed, as they thought that the discovery of the bodies in their neighbourhood might get them into trouble ; and they

were obliged to lodge in a grove close to Chukore's camp. Gungagir Gosacn, and Sahib Khan, the two Thug approvers who were to point out the bodies, came to Chukore for a light for their hookkas. As they approached, they heard some of his followers call him by his name, which was very familiar to them, though they were not personally acquainted with him; and they gave information to the Nujeebs, who secured him, but his followers all made their escape. As Captain Malcolm, at Hyderabad, had only one man in his custody of this class at that time, Chukore was sent to Captain Harris, at Indore, by whom he was committed for trial to the Resident, and sentenced to imprisonment for life, with permission to be used as an approver. Here, in 1847, he recorded a narrative of his life, and the connection between the gang, which had been arrested in that neighbourhood in 1841, and those by whom the numerous Decoitees above described had been committed, became fully exposed. The leader, Dukunee Dusae, was arrested in the Berar district, by a party of Captain Malcolm's, from Hyderabad, in 1847.

On the 18th of August 1840, Rajoo, a Bagree Decoit, nearly related to Bhoja, one of the leaders of that class, who had been made over by Mr. Wilkinson, the Bhopaul Political Agent, to Captain Riddell, who had charge of our duties in Malwa, came to him, Captain Riddell, at Sehore, where the Political Agent resides, to say, that a large gang of Decoits, of a class little known to them, was then encamped near a village, in the Shahjehanpore Purgunna, about twenty miles from Rajwas, the cantonments of the eastern Malwa contingent, where Major Macmullin commanded. Rajoo told Captain Riddell, that he knew nothing more than that this party were, like themselves, Decoits by profession, and could give no evidence to convict them of any specific offences; but that he was sure a good deal of plundered property would be found upon them, if they could be surprised and arrested, and was prepared to point out their encampment.

Captain Riddell forthwith addressed Major Macmullin, and suggested that measures should be immediately adopted for the arrest of the whole party, and with this message, he sent a small party of Nujeebs, under Nynsook Duffadar, accompanied by Rajoo. Before, however, this party could reach Rajwas, the robbers had quarrelled about a division of the spoil acquired in a recent Decoitee, and Kaleea, one of the gang, went off in a rage, direct to Major Macmullin, described to him three Decoitees committed by them during the last season, one on the Residency Bazar at Indore, one at Sohunkutch, and the third at Rajgur, and offered to point out the spot, where the gang then were, with all their booty. Major Macmullin fortunately made the most of the occasion, and sent off a strong party of his contingent, under

Nuthee Khan Ressaldar. They came upon the gang, which consisted of two distinct parties, who had united for some festivities, and prepared a wild boar for the feast. They made no attempt at resistance, save through the screams and violence of their women, and the whole were secured and taken to Rajwas, whence they were sent to Indore, and committed by Captain Riddell for trial before the Resident, Sir C. M. Wade.

They were tried by him, and sentenced to imprisonment for life, as per margin. Sir C. M. Wade

- 1 Khoshal, *alias* Jhola, sentenced to imprisonment for life, Agra jail.
- 2 Hursuncea, escaped from the Agra jail, 29th December 1846.
- 3 Heeramun, Agra jail.
- 4 Soojan Jemadar, ditto ditto.
- 5 Jowana, ditto ditto.
- 6 Sawunteea, ditto ditto.
- 7 Johureea, escaped from Agra jail, 29th December 1846.
- 8 Jinseea Jemadar, Agra jail.
- 9 Kharatee, ditto ditto.
- 10 Purdhan Jemadar, ditto ditto.
- 11 Bisram ditto, Indore jail.
- 12 Dusae, ditto—killed at Kalabagh.
- 13 Burjoo Sing, Agra jail.
- 14 Bheeka Sing, ditto ditto.
- 15 Chunduncea, Indore ditto.
- 16 Jugurooa, ditto ditto.
- 17 Bhowaneca, ditto ditto.
- 18 Solunkeea, ditto ditto.
- 19 Mudoo Khan, ditto ditto.
- 20 Purusram, ditto ditto.
- 21 Rostum, *alias* Tusumgeea, Agra jail.
- 22 Neepaneca, ditto ditto.
- 23 Apa, ditto ditto.
- 24 Johuree Jemadar, ditto ditto.
- 25 Nathoo, *alias* Chunduna, ditto ditto.
- 26 Tilloka, ditto ditto.
- 27 Kaleea, Indore jail.
- 28 Khema, *alias* Ashnow, Agra jail.
- 29 Hureea, killed in attempting his escape from the Agra jail, 29th December 1846.

made a report on the case to the Government of India, who thanked Major Macmullin for his promptitude, and ordered a handsome sword belt and shield to be presented to the Ressaldar, Nuthee Khan, and such reward, as the Resident might think suitable, to Kaleea, Rajoo, and Khema. Khema, the brother of Chukore, went to Major Macmullin soon after Kaleea; and both, with a third member of the gang, Chunduncea, were admitted as King's evidence at the trial. The principal leaders of the gangs were Bisram, and his brother Dusae, whose death at Kalabagh has been described above. Dusae had been made over to the Resident for

trial in April 1841, but before sentence could be passed upon him, he made his escape from a picket shed, near the Residency, in which he had been placed. He had described to Captain Riddell, some Decoitees in a deposition, which was sent to me in a letter, dated the 13th of March 1841; and many of the articles of the stolen property, found upon them, were recognised by the proprietors, as having been taken in the Decoitees, as pointed out by him; but he retracted, before the letter was despatched to me by Captain Riddell, and refused to give any further evidence, unless his brother, Bisram, was unconditionally released, and their family of sixteen persons provided for. He soon after relented, and a further deposition by him was sent to me by Captain Riddell, on the 9th of April 1841. He effected his escape a few days after, returned to his gang, and led it in the Decoitee, above described, at Banda, on the 7th February 1842. His brother, Bisram, got up a mutiny and outbreak in the Indore jail, on the 16th December 1841, escaped in the confusion,

and concealed himself in a haystack, near the city, where the clanking of his fetters betrayed him to a passer-by early the next morning, when he was brought back to the jail. Captain Riddell was obliged, on the 23d December 1841, to join his regiment, in its advance to Jelalabad and Cabul, under Major General Pollock, and he did not return to Indore. The office fell into other hands, and all pursuit, after this class of Decoits, was suspended, till the murder of Dusae, by the followers of Chukore above described, led to the arrest of a part of the gang by Captain Ellis, near Seepree. Chukore was at the head of another gang at Kalabagh, when he heard of the arrest of Bisram and Dusae; and he suspended operations, in consequence, till February 1842, when he committed the Decoitee at Jhalone.

The following sketch, drawn up in March 1848, by Captain G. Ramsay, Assistant Resident at Nagpoor, of the habits, customs, and traditions, of this class of Decoits, by hereditary profession, corresponds, nearly in all its main points, with those drawn up by Captain Malcolm, at Hyderabad, and the other officers of the department at Indore, Jhansee, and Patna :

Memorandum on the Sanseea Decoits.

Many years ago there were two brothers, who resided in the Bhurtpoor territories. Their names were Sains Mull and Sansee.* The descendants of the former are called Bereeas, those of the latter Sanseeas, or Sanseea Bharts—each has a particular language—the Sanseeas call the Bereeas, Dholees, and style *themselves* Bhantoo—the Bereeas call the Sanseeas, Mahais.

The Bereea tribe wandered about, playing the *dhol* (drum) and begging; their women are prostitutes. The Sanseeas lived by begging, by stealing cattle, goats, tattoos, grain, bundles of cloth, &c. &c., and trafficked in animals.

When Sains Mull and Sansee were alive, a person named Mullanoor, who was descended from the famous Poonya Jat, appointed that certain sums should be paid to the Sanseeas by the Jats; the Sanseeas, therefore, in former days, called themselves “beggars from the Jat tribe,” and have a well-known saying

“ Sains Mull ki Sanseea, our Mullanoor ka dome,

“ Hath men teekra, our des mookla hasil na Joogat.”†

* Most of the tribe appear to think, that they, the Sanseeas, are descended from Sains Mull, whose only brother was Mullanoor, from whom they consider the Bereeas and Domes to be descended.—W. H. S.

† There must be some mistake in the second line—the first line merely indicates, that the Sanseeas are from Sains Mull, and the Domes from Mullanoor, and the first part of the second line, that they are destined to be vagrants.—W. H. S.

In the Sansee tribe, it was customary to chronicle the names of the Jats, and of their ancestors, and of their children, and when they used to beg from the Jat families, it was their custom to recite their praises. The Jats, on this account, styled the Sanseeas their bards, or 'Jat ka Bhat.'

The Sansee tribe have many castes, viz. Bhooras, Palpas, Coureas, Moomas, Dhyas, Benjhoos, Kurrans, Dhatus, Suppareas, Gangoos, Bantheas, Koongchas, Sahuns, Jugtha, Deeda, Joudpoorees, Machra, and Bhooga. They are of two families—the Kalkas and Malhas. A Kalka cannot marry a Kalka, or a Malha marry a Malha, without losing caste. Should they do so, they are objects of reproach, and their offspring is considered as disgraced. They can, however, be restored to caste by giving a feast to the members of their tribe, proportionate to their means.

The Kalka and Malha branches of the Sanseeas thus originated : Sansee had a son and a daughter. He was at a loss on whom to bestow the latter in marriage, and therefore adopted a child of some other caste, to whom he gave her. Their offspring and descendants are called Kalkas, the descendants of Sansee's son being styled Malhas.

The Sanseeas have often been styled Kunjurs, but do not admit the appellation : they say that the Kunjurs are all Mussulmans.

In former years, the Sanseeas had particular families appointed to them, from whom they had not only the privilege of begging, but received certain dues; some had 50, some 100 houses apportioned to them, and they received yearly, from the head of each house, one rupee and a quarter, and one day's food.

When the Jats celebrated their marriages, they used to invite the Sanseeas, their *bhats*, who recited the praises of their ancestors, and traced them up to the time of Poonya Jat, for which they received presents, according to the means of the parties, of cows, tattoos, buffaloes, &c. &c. Should any Jat demur at paying the customary dues, the Bhats would dress up a cloth figure of his father, and parade with it before the house, when the sum demanded was generally given—for, if the figure were fastened upon a bamboo, and placed over the house, the family would lose caste, and no one would smoke or drink water with them.

The Sanseeas state that their ancestors resided in the Marwar district and at Ajmere, ever since the 'Sutya Yug.' About twelve coss distance from Ajmere are two towns, Pisangun and Sakoon; on their eastern side is a large tank, and the bones of all persons of the Sansee

tribe, who died in any part of the country, were formerly buried there ; a pukka chubootra and four wooden pillars being erected over the spot, over which was also placed a chuttree. The bones of the ancestors of the Sanseeas are all on the banks of the Pisangun tank, and seven chuttreas are said to be standing there at the present day.

Every year a large number of persons, of the Sansee tribe, used to assemble at this tank, for the purpose of a chuttree poojah. On one occasion, many hundred families were there. Amongst others, were a woman, named Boottee, and her husband and her brother. She was very intimate with a powerful Zemindar in Marwar, and her husband discovered the intimacy at this poojah, and began beating her for it, when her brother interfered. A fight took place, which was stopped by their mutual friends. About a month after this, Boottee's husband persuaded his brother-in-law to accompany him into the jungles, on a sporting excursion, where he murdered him.

Boottee discovered the murder, and revenged the death of her brother, by stabbing her husband. She then fled, to avoid the anger of his relations, and denounced the members of her tribe to the Kota Raja, who gave her two hundred horsemen and some foot soldiers, with whom she arrested large numbers of the Sanseeas, assembled at Pisangun, killing many who attempted to escape. She also broke down and defiled the chuttreas erected over the bones of their ancestors.

The Sansees then left the Marwar territories, and emigrated in various directions: some came to the Deccan. At first they lived by stealing cattle and by begging ; but one day a man, named Subhoora, who had been, with some of his companions, to purchase sugar-cane in the bazar at Moongee Patun, conceived the idea of robbing a shroff, who was returning to his home with a bag of money. They knocked him down, and beat him with their bludgeons, and divided his money amongst them. Subhoora then took it into his head to rob a merchant's shop, which his companions assisted him in doing ; they also elected him their leader, or Jemadar, and continued a system of successful plunder. Those of the Sanseeas, who, from time to time, returned to Marwar, described Subhoora's successes to their companions, who followed his example ; and the Sanseeas of that part of the country also divided themselves into bands, and plundered in all directions. In short, they became professional Decoits, and gave up all their former customs, even those of reciting the praises of, and begging from, the Jats. Many took to Decoitee, and others to passing counterfeit rupees. Some also took to stealing cattle, goats, tattoos, &c. &c. It is uncertain whether these people commit Decoitees or not ; but, about the middle of the night,

they set upon Byparries and travellers, and plunder them. The Sanseeas all have donkeys, goats, buffaloes, &c., with them, and pretend that they gain their livelihood by selling them. Those of the tribe that are Decoits in the Deccan, go to Nagpoor, Gwalior, Ojeyn, Patna, Chicacole, Hyderabad, Mirzapoor, Vizianagram, Poonah, Ganjam, Cuttack, &c. &c., and, after committing Decoitees, return to their homes. Their plans of plundering are as follows. I have transcribed them literally as detailed to me by several intelligent approvers :

“ When we sally forth on our expeditions, we leave our old men, women, and children, behind us, and take our young women, and those who have children at the breast with us, that we may not be suspected by those who meet us. We usually halt about two days’ journey from the place where we commit a Decoitee ; and the leader, accompanied by three or four smart women and some Sipahcees, taking some spear heads with them, go to the place where the Decoitee is to be committed, and if there is any celebrated place of worship in the town, they first go to it and make poojah. They stay at the place for several days to ascertain who is the principal merchant, and find out the best roads to make their escape. They then go to the spirit shops and buy liquor, and enquire, from whoever may be drinking there, how they can dispose of some valuable property they have got with them, and ask the name of the principal merchant, which they generally *thus* ascertain. They then go very early in the morning, *before sunrise*, to the Sowcar’s *dokaun*, and tell him that they want two hundred of the best rupees. They take notice of the particular box from which he takes out the money, and know it to be the one in which his money is generally locked up. They go thus early, because they know that the Sowcar will then open the box in which his money is chiefly kept. If they went late, he would probably open one in which he had put merely sufficient money for the day’s dealings.

“ When we have thus found out a wealthy Sowcar, we go to the bazar, and buy some bamboos for our spears, which we bury near the town, and then return to our families. We take the liquor we have purchased, and first spilling a little on the ground, in the name of Davey, we call out ‘ *Oh Davey, mother, if we succeed in our business, and get a good deal of booty, we will make a grand poojah to you, and offer you a cocoanut.*’ After this, the Jemadar appoints every man to his particular duty. Some are detached to keep watch, and guard the entrances leading to the place where the Decoitee is to be committed—others are appointed to go inside the house, and the person, who is most skilful in lighting the torch quickly, is appointed to that office, and the Jemadar takes the axe, with which the boxes are broken open.

“ In the morning we take our families to some spot, nine coss from the
 “ place of Decoitee—one of the men, who first accompanied the Jemadar,
 “ is appointed to each separate party to show the way, and we proceed,
 “ *each band separately*, to where the spears are buried—one party is then
 “ detached to purchase some oil, and to take particular notice of the
 “ Mahajun’s *dokaun*, and see whether it is open or closed, and whether
 “ there is a full bazar, and if there are Sipahes about. The time thus
 “ passes until the evening, when we proceed to our work : we cannot
 “ look behind us when we have once started to commit the Decoitee, nor
 “ can any one use water, who is obliged to stop on the road, for the pur-
 “ poses of nature. When we reach the place, *if* the Mussaulchee tells us
 “ that any one sneezed, or there was any other bad omen at the time the
 “ oil was being purchased, we cannot commit the Decoitee—if the torch-
 “ bearer tells us that there was no bad omen, and that the merchant’s
 “ shop is open, and there are not many Sipahes about, we proceed to
 “ our work. If we find that the police arrangements are good, and that
 “ we cannot get into the town with our spears in hand, we purchase some
 “ kurbee, or long stalks of jewar and bujra, and hide our spears in it,
 “ and one man takes the bundle on his head ; another man is appointed
 “ to follow him to the place of the Decoitee. Should any one enquire the
 “ price of the kurbee, the man who is following it, says, he has just bought
 “ it, when it is thrown down at the appointed spot. Should any one
 “ then wish to buy it, a very large price is asked for it. At an appointed
 “ signal, the bundle is cut, and the torch lighted, fire being brought in a
 “ small loose bundle ; we kindle *this* at the place where the spears have
 “ been buried. One torch is made of a thick brown vegetable substance,
 “ like canvas, found upon the kujoor or sindi-tree. We call this stuff
 “ ‘ kupta.’ It is cut up into strips, and made up with strips of cloth
 “ into torches, about ten inches in length, which are fastened round a
 “ piece of some light, dry, inflammable wood, such as the mangoe or
 “ dhak, or a piece of dry *thoor*, milkhedge. If there are no police or
 “ Chowkeydars about the town, we walk boldly into it, with spears in our
 “ hands, and put our shoes, and a number of stones, into our kummer-
 “ bunds, our bodies and our feet are naked. The Jemadar then invokes
 “ Khumdoba, or Khandy Rao, ‘ *Mahadoo*,’ and says that if by *his* as-
 “ sistance the box of money is broken, at the first or second stroke of the
 “ axe, an offering of a chain of gold, weighing one and a quarter tolah,
 “ will be made to him, and the Jemadar, accompanied by four or five men,
 “ and by the torch-bearer, rush into the shop, calling out *Deen, Deen*. If
 “ any persons attempt to interrupt them, they are attacked. Those who
 “ remain outside, throw stones at any one who may come near them, or
 “ else assail them with their spears. Our watch word is ‘ *Lucker Khan*
 “ *Bhaie*’—when any one calls out that expression, we know him to be one
 “ of us. If there happen to be a thannah, near the place of the Decoitee,

“ a body of men, with stones and spears, are specially detached to keep off
 “ the Sipahes, who may be stationed there. We never spear persons
 “ who may run after us, until we have first called out to them to go
 “ away. If the Mahajuns we are plundering ask us any questions, we
 “ tell them we have been sent to do it by some Rajah, or by a *sahib*,
 “ European gentleman.

“ About a mile from the place of the Decoitee, we usually stop, for a
 “ minute or two, to tie up our plunder into one bundle, and muster our
 “ party. The Jemadar calls out to Bhugwan, the deity, to direct any
 “ one, who may be in pursuit of us, in a wrong direction, and to enable us
 “ to reach our families. Should any Decoit ever have been killed at the
 “ town, we also call upon his spirit to assist us, and promise to offer up a
 “ goat, and some liquor in his name—after this, we come to our families,
 “ throwing down a rupee or two, at any temple, or stream, that we may
 “ pass—our poneyes are always kept ready for us. When we are about a
 “ coss from them, we call out koo-koo—that, if any misfortune has hap-
 “ pened in our absence, we may be made acquainted with it. Should no
 “ one call out to us, and we have reason to believe that all is right,
 “ we go nearer to our encampment, and imitate the call of the partridge ;
 “ when close to it, we make a hissing noise. We lose no time in mount-
 “ ing our poneyes, and travel from thirty to forty coss per day, for two or
 “ three days.

“ Should any Sanseea happen to commit a murder, when engaged in
 “ a Decoitee, he is afterwards obliged to make a poojah for forgiveness,
 “ and to spend one and a quarter rupee in liquor, for distribution to his
 “ companions. If a Decoit is himself killed, his clothes, and some new
 “ clothes, are put upon a charpae, and his companions of the same caste
 “ carry it to a convenient spot, where it is either burnt, or it may be
 “ buried in the ground.

“ When a Sansee child is born, and its hair first begins to grow, it
 “ is all shaved off, except a small piece, which is left in the name of
 “ Bhugwan. When the child is ten or twelve years' old, this lock is also
 “ shaved off by a barber, and his relations give a dinner to the members
 “ of his tribe. Those who die before this ceremony is performed, are
 “ buried ; *after it*, they are invariably burnt, and their relations must
 “ expend, as much as they can possibly afford, in feasting, drinking,
 “ dancing, &c. &c. The ashes of the deceased are examined, when they
 “ become cool, and the bones are buried on the spot in a ghurra, over the
 “ mouth of which a large stone is placed. Some pig's flesh is then
 “ cooked in a new earthen pot, and some sweet cakes prepared, which are
 “ rolled into balls, and portions of both are placed upon the stone ; the

“ deceased is then called upon, by reason of the usual ceremonies having
 “ been performed at his death, to watch over his surviving relations.*

“ When a body is buried, sweet cakes are also prepared ; a dog is
 “ first fed with three of these, and the rest are eaten by the tribe. No
 “ other ceremonies take place on the occasion.

“ Children are styled Jerroola, before their sacred lock is cut off,
 “ after that, they are called Moondawun. We have a custom, when any of
 “ our tribe die, to turn them upon their faces, and they are burnt, or
 “ buried, in this position.

“ There have been eleven of our gangs in the Deccan, under the
 “ following Jemadars—Gunput Row, Ghatkia, Chukore, Dessahi, Tum-
 “ bolin, a female leader, whose son, Mundhil, led her gang, Jerrao,
 “ another female leader, whose brother-in-law, Khan Sahib, led her gang,
 “ Malchund, Kunkya, Grassia, Dhokullea, and Yenkoo. All, but the two
 “ last mentioned of these, have been caught. Chukore Jemadar is an
 “ approver at Indore ; Kunkya is at Belgaum ; Dessae, Malchund, and
 “ Grassia, are at Hyderabad ; and Gunput Row, Ghatkia, Tumbolin,
 “ (dead) and Mundhil, Jerrao, and Khan Sahib, are at Nagpoor.

“ We have heard of seven Sansee Jemadars in the Upper Provinces,
 “ viz., Jowhuree, Sujān, Nathoo, Soolkhan, Sookhtea, Bugwarrea, and
 “ Bisram. The last of these is now in arrest at Indore.

“ Besides our tribe, there are other Decoits in the Deccan, viz.,
 “ Bagureas, or Budhuks ; Ramoosees, or Maugs ; and Bheels. We have
 “ not been engaged with these tribes in Decoitees ; but the Mussulman
 “ Kunjurs, who inhabit the Poonah district, Candiesh, Boorhanpore, and
 “ the Chutteesghur district, of the Nagpoor State, have occasionally joined
 “ in our expeditions. The Bunjarries, in the Hyderabad district, are
 “ sometimes concerned in Decoitees. There is another class, called
 “ ‘ Kalbailee Gosaiens,’ who sell a spirit distilled from cloves, and
 “ missee (vitriol powder for staining the teeth.) There are a great
 “ many of them in the Hyderabad district, and a few families in Sum-
 “ bhulpore. We do not know any of them in this part of the country.
 “ They are all Decoits. On one occasion, when Ghatkia Jemadar had
 “ fixed upon a merchant's house for plunder, at Hyderabad, some twenty
 “ years ago, the Kalbailee Gosaiens anticipated him in robbing it—their
 “ Jemadar was killed on the occasion. He afterwards fell in with them,

* Among the Gonds, and other wild tribes of Central India, the spirits of relations are propitiated in the same way, that they may use their influence for, and not against the family, as all spirits are supposed to be prone to mischief, and as liable to do it to their own family, as to any other, if not put and kept in good humour by sacrifices.—W. H. S.

“ and they told him what had occurred, and that their Jemadar’s widow
 “ had burnt herself in Suttee. The Kikarries about Poonah, not only
 “ dig into houses and steal, but occasionally commit Decoitees, as also
 “ do the Takungurs and Berias, who associate together, and sometimes
 “ join the Sansee Bhats. There is a great number of Berias in the
 “ Hyderabad district, they are also called Koolhaties, and have been
 “ Decoits for many years past—we eat and drink together ; but our tribe
 “ and the Berias do not intermarry, for our customs are different. Their
 “ women are prostitutes from their youth up ; they have no ceremony of
 “ marriage whatever, but their men and women live together, and sepa-
 “ rate when they please. Our women are not prostitutes. We deter-
 “ mine mutually on our children’s marriages, and assemble a punchayut
 “ to decide what sum shall be paid by the parents of the boy, to the
 “ father of the girl. Sometimes as much as two thousand rupees is fixed.
 “ The marriage is validated by our spilling some liquor on the ground,
 “ in the name of Bhugwan, the Supreme Being, and pronouncing that,
 “ ‘ from *that* time the two become man and wife,’—a feast is then given
 “ to the tribe. We do not use huldee, or even mehndy, in our marriages.
 “ The girl accompanies her husband from the date of the ceremony, and
 “ resides with him. A man cannot go into his mother-in-law’s hut, or
 “ into his son’s wife’s hut ; for if their petticoat should touch him, he
 “ would be turned out of his caste, and would not be admitted into it,
 “ until he had paid a large sum. If we quarrel with a woman, and she
 “ strikes us with her petticoat, we lose our caste ; we should be allowed
 “ to eat and drink with our tribe, but not to perform poojah with them,
 “ or to assist in burial rites. If a woman piles up a heap of stones, and
 “ puts her petticoat upon it, and throws filth upon it, and says to any
 “ other person, ‘ *this disgrace fall upon your ancestors for seven gene-*
 “ *rations back,*’ both are immediately expelled from our caste, and cannot
 “ return to it until they have paid a large sum of money. If a small
 “ gang re-admit a person formerly expelled from his caste, they must
 “ send a part of the money they receive to other gangs, to be spent in
 “ liquor and in feasting.

“ In the Sansee tribe, a woman cannot wash herself for five days,
 “ after giving birth to a child, but on the sixth day, she may go to
 “ a nullah and wash. On no account can she ever wash herself in her
 “ house, but must go to a stream to do so. With men there is no
 “ restriction to this point.

“ In dividing the proceeds of an expedition, the custom is first to
 “ give one-tenth part of the booty to the Jemadar, who pays for spears,
 “ for oil, &c. &c., and repays himself double the amount from the remain-
 “ ing nine-tenths. After that, the balance is divided into shares, of which

“ two shares are given to the Jemadar, and one share to each Sipahce.
 “ No Sipahce receives a share of the first two successful Decoitees, in
 “ which he may be engaged, but only gets a share, when he has been in
 “ his third successful affair. If any Sipahce has been killed in a Decoitee,
 “ his wife receives three hundred and fifty rupees from the gang, and
 “ gets a half share in all future Decoitees—any one, who may be severely
 “ wounded and crippled, receives one hundred and forty rupees, and gets
 “ one share from all plunder, and is allowed to join any particular gang
 “ he pleases.

“ When a Sipahce joins a gang, he is allowed to borrow fifty rupees
 “ from the Jemadar, without interest ; but all other sums that he may
 “ borrow, he has to pay double for, and he must engage to remain in
 “ the gang for five years. After that period, he may join any other gang
 “ he pleases, but if he is in debt, the Jemadar of the new gang must settle
 “ his debts for him.

“ Wherever the Sansees go, the villagers know them to be Decoits,
 “ but we become friends with the Zemindars, and are not molested.
 “ Sometimes the latter become security for us, when we have been seized.
 “ Patunghur, the father of Malchund, approver at Hyderabad, was ar-
 “ rested many years ago at Hoshungabad, and was released on the
 “ security of Chunga Lall, a Zemindar of the Baitool district, who receiv-
 “ ed a consideration of three thousand rupees for his assistance. We were
 “ protected by the Zemindars, when we resided at Ooghal, in the Nizam’s
 “ territories.* Whilst we were in that neighbourhood, some six years
 “ ago, we were joined by Ghatkia, Chukore, Dessae, Jemadars, and
 “ Tumbolin, Jemadarni, and their gangs, who had come to conceal them-
 “ selves, for fear of being arrested by parties detached in pursuit of them.
 “ Since that time, many of our tribe have been caught, and it thus
 “ happened that we were discovered. When Bisram Jemadar used to
 “ plunder in the Gwalior district, there was a man, named Usnow, in his
 “ gang, who wanted him to lend him some money, to enable him to leave
 “ his family behind him ; the Jemadar refused to do so, and one of
 “ Usnow’s children was killed, a few days after, by a kick from a poney.
 “ Usnow then demanded sixty rupees, on account of his child having lost
 “ his life. His request was refused, and in a fit of anger, he proceeded to
 “ Goonah, and gave information to the Sahib at that place, of Bisram’s
 “ gang, which led to the apprehension of the Jemadar, and his brother

* Patungur, and six of his gang, were arrested in October 1824, in the Hoshungabad district, on information given to the Police by Bhappoor, one of the gang, in consequence of a quarrel with his leader. They were committed for trial, and on the 15th July 1825, all seven were sentenced to imprisonment, on a requisition of security. All were released on the 12th March 1831, on the security of Chunga Lall, alias Gopal Sookal, and handed over the border into the Hyderabad territory.—W. H. S.

“ Dessae, and of the greater part of the gang. Dessae managed soon
 “ to effect his escape, and joined Chukore in the Deccan, where he was
 “ murdered by the Decoits, who suspected him of treachery, and believed
 “ that he had come down, as a spy, to inform against them ; they were
 “ assisted by the Zemindar of the place. Two of Dessae’s children
 “ escaped, when their father was killed, and related what had passed to a
 “ sister of Bisram’s, who proceeded to Indore, and gave such information,
 “ as led to active measures being taken to seize the gangs. Gunput Row
 “ Jemadar, then fearing that he should be apprehended, left the Hyde-
 “ rabad district, and went to Deokur, in the province of Chutteesghur,
 “ where he established himself for three or four years.

“ We allow any person to join our caste by paying a few rupees,
 “ unless they are Dhers or Mougs—these we do not admit. No one is
 “ entrusted with a spear, until he has committed three or four Decoitees,
 “ nor do we allow them to enter the houses that we plunder. When we
 “ have committed a Decoitee, we bury the spears we have used, and buy
 “ others. It is not the custom to appoint a man a Jemadar, because his
 “ father was so, but we select persons, who have plenty of money, and are
 “ fitted, by their activity and intelligence, for the post. When Jerrao’s
 “ husband died, she formed a gang of her own. We look upon a Jemadar,
 “ whose father and grandfather were such, as a person of particular con-
 “ sequence. The time appointed by us for our Decoitees is the dusk of
 “ the evening : the Berias commit theirs after dark.

“ Sometimes when four or five Decoits are together, and have got
 “ no money, they waylay a money-changer, going home from the bazar,
 “ to his own shop, and rob him, having first fixed upon some place from
 “ whence the means of escape are easy ; sometimes they steal cattle,
 “ and sell them.

“ If any one asks us on the road, who we are, we call out ‘ Jatou ka
 “ ‘ Bhat,’ or ‘ Jug Bhats,’ or ‘ Guzerattee Bhats,’ or ‘ Kusbee Bhats,’
 “ or ‘ Koonhar Bhats,’ and that we gain our livelihood by trading in
 “ cattle, goats, and donkeys. Our men wear the Mahratta choleea, or
 “ short pajammah, and a purse, and a Mahratta puggere; the women
 “ usually wear a coloured petticoat, and sometimes a sari—their ears and
 “ noses are also pierced for ornaments, of which they are very fond ; and
 “ they wear necklaces like the Bunjarrie women, and Hindostani choories
 “ for the breast.

“ We have three forms of ordeals, all of which are considered very
 “ effectual. If a Jemadar suspects a Sipahsee of secreting plunder, a pun-
 “ chayut is assembled, the members of which receive five rupees from

“both the parties. The Sipahsee has a heated iron plate (tawa) put upon his hand, upon seven peepul leaves, which are bound round with thread, and is ordered to walk seven paces, and put the tawa down upon seven thorns: should he be able to do so, he is pronounced innocent; but if he is burnt by the tawa, and throws it down, he is considered guilty.

“Another ordeal is by firing arrows, two of these are shot off at once from one bow, one in the name of Bhugwan, the other in the name of the punchayut; this ceremony takes place on the banks of a river. The arrow that flies the furthest, is stuck upright into the ground; a man, with a long bamboo in his hand, then walks up to his breast in the water, and the suspected person is desired to join him. One of the punchayut then claps his hands seven times, and runs off to pick up the arrow, the suspected person is obliged at that instant, to put his head under water, and if he can hold his breath, until the other returns to the bank with the arrow, and has again clapped his hands seven times, he is pronounced innocent. If he cannot do so, he is declared guilty, and punished.

“A third form of ordeal is as follows: the Jemadar and the gang assemble under a peepul tree, and after knocking off the neck of an earthen pitcher, they kill a goat, and collect its blood in the pitcher, and put some ‘choorics’ (women’s lac or glass bracelets) into it. Four lines are then drawn on the pitcher with sendoor, (red lead) which is placed under the tree, and one and a quarter seer of goor is tied in a piece of cloth one and a quarter hauth in length, and tied up to one of the branches. The Jemadar then says, ‘I will forgive any person, who has not secreted more than fifteen or twenty rupees, but whoever has stolen more than that sum, shall be punished.’ The Jemadar then dips his finger in the pitcher of blood, and afterwards touches the goor, and calls out loudly, ‘should I have embezzled any money, may Bhugwan punish me’—each Decoit in turn pronounces the same sentence. No one, who is guilty, will do this, but at once makes his confession.

“When we are making our escape from the place of a Decoitee, if we separate, and come to a place where several roads meet, we arrange some stones in a line to guide those of our accomplices, who may be following us. We never commit a Decoitee in moonlight nights, but appoint five evenings in the dark half of the month—the 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, and the night of the day on which the new moon is first seen. If we do not meet with a favorable omen, during any of these nights, we do not commit a Decoitee that month. Our good and bad omens are as follows :

“ If a jackal cries, or we see a cat, when we are near the place, where
 “ we intend to commit a Decoitee, or hear the relatives of a dead person
 “ lamenting, or hear a person sneeze whilst cooking his meal, or see a
 “ dog run away with a portion of any person's food, or a kite screams
 “ whilst *sitting on a tree*, or a woman breaks the ghurra, in which she
 “ may have been drawing water—we consider the omens unfavorable.
 “ If a person drops his turban, or we meet a corpse, or the Jemadar has
 “ forgotten to put some bread, (roti) into his kummerbund, or any Decoit
 “ forgets his axe, or spear, or sees a snake, whether dead or alive—these
 “ omens are also considered unfavorable, and we do not commit the
 “ Decoitee. Should we see a wolf, and any one of us have on a red
 “ turban, it is torn up into seven pieces, each one of which is hung upon
 “ a separate tree. We then purchase a rupee's worth of liquor, and kill
 “ a goat, which is cut up into four pieces. *The entrails are put on one
 “ side. Four men are appointed to seize the four quarters of the meat
 “ who pretend that they are wolves, and rush upon it, imitating the cries
 “ of those animals; the rest of the Decoits pelt them with the entrails,
 “ but they seize the meat, which is afterwards cooked, and eaten in the
 “ name of Bhugwan. Should we see a hare, a fox, a chameleon, a Taillie,
 “ (oil seller) a carpenter, or blacksmith, or two cows tied together, or
 “ hear a flute, or the braying of a jackass, or meet a thief, who has been
 “ seized, or should any one of us drop his spear, or his turban, we imme-
 “ diately turn back, and do not commit the Decoitee.

“ Our favorable omens are—meeting a woman selling milk; or a
 “ person carrying a basket of grain, or a bag of money; or if we see a calf
 “ sucking its mother; or meet a person with a ghurra of water, or a
 “ marriage procession; or if any person finds a rupee that he has lost; or
 “ we meet a bearer carrying fish; or see a pig, or a blue jay—if any of
 “ these omens occur near the place of our encampment, on a day on
 “ which we contemplate a Decoitee, we proceed forthwith to commit it—
 “ we consider that these signs ensure us a good booty. If a fakeer
 “ begs from us, whilst we are on our way to the place of Decoitee, we
 “ cannot give him any thing. Formerly, when dividing our plunder, we
 “ always first put aside some rupees for Davey, and some for Bhugwan,
 “ and afterwards divide the balance, as before described. We have lately
 “ abolished this custom, which has led to our misfortunes and capture.

“ Our poojahs are performed to Bhugwan and to Davey. When we
 “ pray to the former, we fix upon a spot, four or five hundred paces from
 “ our camp, and after purchasing rice, goor, ghee, &c. &c., and a number
 “ of cooking pots, to the amount which we may have in hand, for the
 “ purpose of the poojah, a long trench is dug, in which a fire is lighted,
 “ and we cook the materials in it, in the name of Bhugwan—the Jemadar
 “ putting the first pot upon the fire. All the Decoits, who may be con-

“cerned in the poojah, do the same. When the meal is cooked, a white
 “cloth is spread upon the ground, upon which is placed a wooden
 “trough—each person takes a spoonful of cooked rice out of his own
 “cooking pot, and puts it into the trough, by which we place a pan of
 “water. We then all join together, and call upon Bhugwan to assist us,
 “and tell him, that we have made the feast in his honor—the rice is
 “afterwards taken from the trough, and rolled up into balls, which are
 “burnt—the rest of the food is eaten by the Decoits, with the exception
 “of a small quantity, which has previously been put on one side, and is
 “kept *uncooked*, for distribution to the fakeers. In the evening of the
 “poojah, we drink and enjoy ourselves—first spilling some liquor in the
 “name of Bhugwan. Should a kite suddenly carry off any portion of
 “the food, before the poojah is completed, we consider it as inauspicious,
 “and that the poojah is not accepted.

“When we pray to Davey, we get some cocoanuts, some goor, ghee,
 “goojul, (fragrant gum) and flour, and digging a large hole in the ground,
 “some distance from our encampment, fill it with dried cow-dung, which
 “is set fire to ; we then make up some small sweet cakes, which are
 “baked on the fire, and afterwards broken into small pieces. A small
 “portion of the fire is raked out on one side, on which we sprinkle the
 “fragrant gum, calling upon Davey, in such terms as we think most
 “agreeable to her, such as Maha Kali, Umba Baie, Toolja Baie, &c. &c.,
 “and beg of her to assist us in our expeditions, and prevent any calamity
 “befalling us ; after this, a cocoanut is thrown into the fire, and the
 “poojah is completed. The rest of the cocoanuts, and the cakes, are dis-
 “tributed amongst the party.”

The Sanseeas fix their abode in certain localities for as long as they may remain unmolested, and make their excursions from these haunts into all parts of the country, for the purposes of Decoitee, leaving their old women and children behind them ; they usually sally forth soon after the rainy season is over, and are sometimes absent for several months. When the proceeds of an expedition are nearly expended, they plan another—the same gang committing two or three Decoitees during the year. Some of the Jemadars, who are provident, amass considerable sums, and Gunput Row Jemadar, confesses to having spent ten thousand rupees, which his father left him, and which he dug up in various places, where it had been buried.

(Signed) G. RAMSAY,

Assist. Resident and Extra Assist. Genl. Supt.

NAGPOOR EXTRA ASSIST. GENL. SUPT'S. OFFICE,

The 10th March, 1848.

The tribe of Sansees is divided into two great families, Kālkurs and Mālhas, the former sub-divided into eight, and the latter into twelve branches, as follows :

Kālkurs.

1. Gāngoo.
2. Bhoga.
3. Mooma.
4. Banteea.
5. Kowreea.
6. Binjoo.
7. Dahea, *alias* Dyka.
8. Sahoo.

Mālhas.

1. Kurun.
2. Seepareea.
3. Bhoora.
4. Koncha.
5. Deeda.
6. Munohur.
7. Sahun.
8. Juggut.
9. Palha.
10. Jodpooreea.
11. Machur.
12. Tāleea.

Some of these names are probably derived from places, and some from persons, but as all the branches of the same family are supposed to be derived from the same parents, they cannot intermarry with each other. Any branch of the Mālha family may intermarry with any branch of the Kālkur family, and *vice versâ* ; but no branch of the Kālkur, or Mālha family, can intermarry with any other branch of the same family—such an union would be considered as incestuous. The Kālkur family is also called Khandesheas, from having settled first in that province, after leaving the valley of the Nerbudda ; and the branch of that family called Dhoreea, derives that name, probably from having resided at Dholeea, in that province. The Jodpooreea branch of the Mālha family, probably derived its name from having resided at Jodhpoor, and so on, with some, at least, of the others.

They all call themselves Bharts, or Bhartoos, that is, bards, when speaking of themselves to each other, or to others ; but they are, by other people, called Sansees, Khunjurs, Meinds, or Mahais, Jats, &c. &c., according to the countries in which they happen to be, for they have no where any fixed habitation, and the people, among whom they encamp, call them after the wandering or vagrant tribe, whom they appear most to resemble. They say themselves, that some generations ago, two brothers resided in the Bhurtpoor territory, one named Sains Mull, the other Mullanoor.* The descendants of Mullanoor are the Bereeas, *alias*

* Most of the Sansees seem to think, that there were only two brothers, and they were Sains Mull and Mullanoor—and that they are descended from Sains Mull, and the Domes and Bereeas from Mullanoor.—W. H. S.

Kolhaties, who are all vagrants, and robbers by hereditary profession, and infest all parts of Hindoostan and Central and Southern India, living in tents, or sirkhee huts, like Naths and other vagrant tribes, and having their women in common, without any marriage ceremonies or ties whatsoever. Among themselves and their relatives, the descendants of Sains Mull, they are called Dholies, or Kolhaties. The descendants of the two brothers eat, drink, and smoke together, and join in robberies, but never intermarry.

The descendants of Sains Mull used to attend at all the festivals of the Jat tribe, sing the praise of their ancestors, and flatter them by attempts to trace their descent, from some ancient chief of great renown in war. In return, they received donations or allowances, according to the abilities of the donors, till in time they came to be considered as the Bharts, or bards, of the Jat tribe, and an honorable class. Their numbers increased; and unable to subsist upon the charities of one tribe, they spread over Mewar and Marwar, and the other Rajpoot States, who had bards of their own, to flatter the pride of their families, at feasts and festivals; and the Sanseeas, not to lose the advantage, which association and combination of powers had given them over the rest of the community, took to robbery, by fraud or open violence, as the occasion most required. From Rajpootana and Malwa, they spread into the valley of the Nerbudda, and thence over Southern India; but more especially over the Hyderabad and Nagpoor territories, whose extensive jungles, and inefficient police, insured them a secure residence for the four months of the rainy season, during which they could not venture upon Decoitee, because the state of the roads rendered the long and rapid retreats, required for their security after crime, impracticable.

From the hills and jungles of Berar and Hyderabad, they sallied forth at the close of the rains, some passing through the Bombay, Madras, and Hyderabad territories, and some up across the Nerbudda, into the Hon'ble Company's districts, along the Ganges and Jumna, and into the Native States of Malwa, Rajpootana, Gwalior, and Bundelcund. During eight months, till the rains again set in, they were continually moving along with their families, resting only when it was necessary to prepare for, and perpetrate a Decoitee; and then, moving with all possible rapidity, without a halt, for, from fifty to eighty miles, so that no ordinary district police, employed in the pursuit, had any chance whatever of arresting them.* It is worthy of remark that the Sanseeas speak

* Each gang considered the range it took during the season as its exclusive hunting ground, and treated any other gang that ventured upon it, during the season, as poachers or interlopers. The directions were commonly chosen in concert by gangs, who were in communication with each other.—W. H. S.

the dialect of Marwar, as a slang language, among the people of Southern India, in the same manner as the Budhuks that of Guzerat, wherever they go.

They account for the Mālhas being able to marry with the Kālkurs, though both descended from Sains Mull, by stating, that he had only one son and one daughter, and that he was obliged to get a wife for the son, and a husband for the daughter, from some other tribe of Hindoos ; and that this rendered the intermarriage of their descendants permissible. The descendants of the daughter are called Kālkurs, or Kālkas, and those of the son Mālhas.

In countries with free institutions, and a free press, without which it is difficult to maintain them anywhere, men of the middle and higher classes, readily unite in associations for purposes beneficial, not only to the community, but to the great family of mankind in general. They unite to make, and to give extended effect to, sacrifices of money, time, and talent, for the benefit of their fellow men in all parts of the world ; and are content to share, in common with all who are associated with them, the grateful acknowledgments of those, for whose good the sacrifices are made, or the commendation of those, to whom they become known through the press, or otherwise. In countries, without such institutions, and such a press, or at least in India, it is different. All that is done for the benefit of the people, by the middle and higher classes, without any view to a return in profits, is done individually.

Groves are planted, wells made, bridges, caravanserais, mosques, and temples, are built in abundance for the benefit of travellers, and the public, without any view to profit, but all by individuals, who hope for a reward in the next world from the Supreme Being, whose creatures they have benefited in this, or for a good name, and the prayers and good wishes of those, who are benefited when they are gone. A vast number of individuals are found in mosques, temples, and villages, devoting their time and talents gratuitously, to the instruction of the youth in the neighbourhood ; and in every town, numbers will be found, in the same manner, devoting their time and talents, without fee or reward, to prescribing for the sick and the helpless, and their means to feeding the hungry, and clothing the naked. But no where shall we find, as in Europe, and America, numbers of the middle and the higher classes associated together, and uniting their efforts for these purposes.

It is only among the lower, or the lowest orders, who have no property, that we find such associations ; and their object too commonly is, to unite their efforts to acquire, as best they may, the property of others ;

and in their creed, they find no difficulty in discovering a religious sanction for what they do; or, among their gods, patrons, and guides. This is not surprising, for among even Christian nations, we have often found thanksgivings offered up to the Supreme Being, for victories by armies, engaged in the most cruel and atrocious invasions, that have ever disfigured the page of history; and they all imply a belief in a religious sanction.

The Pindaries were lawless characters, floating loosely upon society. They united their efforts to take, from those who had it, the property which they had not, and which they could hope to acquire by no other means; and by degrees they invested their leaders with principalities and powers, and all that they required, the better to lead them to their prey, and secure it for them, at the least possible risk to themselves. The Thugs, Decoits, and robbers of all classes, did the same. The monastic orders are, for the most part, composed, in the same manner, of persons floating loosely upon society, without property or character, with the object of acquiring the property of others, not commonly by fraud, or violence, it is true, but through religious fears; and many even of these orders have been, and still are, prone to take advantage of favorable opportunities, to acquire what they cannot get through these religious fears, by open violence or fraud.

The Sanseea Decoits, whom I have been describing, do not appear to have been associated originally with a view to steal or rob, but merely to obtain, from the Jat tribes of Northern India, a portion of their superfluities, by their attentions and flatteries, on occasions of marriage and funeral ceremonies; but they no sooner felt the ability, which union gave them, to acquire the property of others, by fraud and violence, than they became robbers by profession, and that profession has descended among them as an exclusive and hereditary trade, acquiring strength from generation to generation, and requiring, for its suppression, the combined efforts of an establishment, like that with which they have now to contend, ready in every country through which they wander, to take advantage, and make the most of opportunities.

Sufficient has been stated to show, how fruitless would have been the efforts of the best ordinary police, in Native States, or our own territories, in the pursuit of such an association of offenders. The arrest at Patna, would, without such a special establishment, have ended with the conviction and punishment of half a dozen persons, which would have been little felt, or cared for by the great body—those arrested at Sattara, would have been released, and those arrested in Hyderabad, Sholapoor, Malwa, Gwalior, Nagpoor, and Bundelcund, would now be plundering

and murdering with impunity, instead of recording narratives of their lives, and aiding Government in the arrest and conviction of their associates.

The best account of their own mode of life and system of depredations, after that by Captain Ramsay, is given in the narrative of Malchund, a Sanseea leader of note, of the Mālha family, before Major Malcolm, 1st Assistant to the Resident at Hyderabad, in September 1847. He and his gang had committed a Decoitee, on the house of a banker, in the town of Aurungabad, in the year 1839, killed the mother of the banker, and two of their servants, a Brahman and a Mussulman, and carried off property worth about twelve hundred rupees. They were pursued by some of the Nizam's troops stationed at that place, and Malchund, and two of his followers, Khyma and Hummutta, were seized, and kept in the Aurungabad jail for seven years, when they were sent to Hyderabad, and ultimately made over to Major Malcolm.

Narrative of Malchund Sanseea Decoit, before Captain D. A. Malcolm, September, 1847.

“ My name is Malchund. I am the son of a Bhatoo Decoit, named Patungur, of the Kurn sub-division of the tribe of Malhas. I was born in the Oodgheer district of the Nizam's territories, upwards of forty years ago, and have, from my youth upwards, followed the profession of my ancestors—Decoitee.

“ There is a tradition amongst us, that the tribe to which we belong, emigrated into the Deccan from Marwar, three or four generations ago ; and that they were induced to do so from the accounts which had reached them, of the facility with which a livelihood was to be obtained in the Deccan, by the exercise of our profession. Since then, we have had little or no intercourse with the Decoits to the north of the Nerbudda ; inter-marrying among ourselves, and adhering to the customs of our forefathers.

“ Our tribe is known under various denominations, in different parts of the country, for instance—

In Marwar it is called	Sanseea,
„ Nagpoor	„ Kungur,
„ Berar	„ Jhat,
„ Busmut Naudair	„ Meind,
„ the Deccan	„ Bhat.

“ In speaking among ourselves, we call each other Bhatoo ; but if asked by the country people, who we are, we reply that we are Bhats or bards.

“ Our tribe is divided into two large classes, or divisions, viz., Malha and Kalkhur, and these again respectively into twelve, and eight sub-divisions.

“ In the first class or Malha, are included the following sub-divisions, viz. :

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Kurn, | 7. Sahun, |
| 2. Separeya, | 8. Juggut, |
| 3. Boorha, | 9. Palha, |
| 4. Koncha, | 10. Jodpooreea, |
| 5. Deeda, | 11. Machur, |
| 6. Ghaugreea, | 12. Taleeha. |

In the second, or Kalkhur, are :

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Ghangoo, | 5. Kowreca, |
| 2. Bhogha, | 6. Bheenjoo, |
| 3. Chooma, | 7. Dhawa, |
| 4. Dheryia, | 8. Sahwa. |

“ The Kalkhur division of the tribe is also known by the name of Khandeishaea, in consequence of their having at first located themselves in that district, on their arrival in the Deccan. As the descendants of each separate division of the tribe are all considered as related to each other, no marriages are allowed to take place among the members of the twelve Malha, or of the eight Kalkhur, sub-divisions ; but a Malha Bhatoo seeks a wife among the Kalkhurs, and *vice versa*, a Kalkhur from among the Malhas.

“ In personal intercourse among ourselves, we speak a dialect of Hindoostanee, much the same as that now used in Marwar, but with the country people, we converse in Mahratta and Deccanee ; we have also a slang language, which we make use of for our own private purposes, especially when we are engaged in the exercise of our profession.

“ There are four other wandering tribes in the Deccan, who, like ourselves, follow Decoitree as a profession, viz. :

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Takungurs, | 3. Karharies, |
| 2. Dookur Koolhatee, | 4. Booregawallas. |

“ The first is a tribe called Takungurs in Berar, and Bowree in Marwar. We have no connection or relationship with this tribe, although, like ourselves, they are originally from Marwar. They live in villages, and gain a livelihood by making grindstones, and killing jungle pigs, which they eat. They have a slang language of their own, entirely different from the one in use with us.*

“ The second, though not related to us, speak nearly the same language as ourselves, and understand our Ramasee, or slang language. When we are in want of assistance to effect any particular Decoitee, for which our numbers are not sufficient, we occasionally borrow men from the Koolhatees, and in return lend them men from our tribe. This tribe is principally located in Berar, living in small sirkee huts, and ostensibly gaining a livelihood by killing wild hogs, for which they are paid by the villagers, and in rearing tame pigs for their own consumption.†

“ The Karharies employ themselves in weaving baskets, to conceal their real profession of Decoitee. They speak the language of the country, but are ignorant of our Ramasee, and never join us in our expeditions.

“ The Booregawallas are Mussulmen, who make mats, go a begging as fakeers, and in this manner, have an opportunity of selecting the best places for Decoitee. They have some slang language of their own but as we do not rob in company, or associate together, I am not acquainted with it, and know very little of their habits and customs.

“ The following is generally the mode of conducting a Decoitee expedition adopted by our tribe :

“ When we have determined upon an expedition, we leave the greater part of our camp standing in some part of the country, with which we are well acquainted. All the able bodied men join the expedition, and those who are married take with them their wives, and such of their children as are still in arms. The old men, and the children, and youths of the tribe, between four and fifteen years of age, are left in charge of the camp. For the carriage of our cloth, tents, and baggage, tattoos and mules are employed generally, in sufficient numbers, to admit of every person in the gang being mounted, when the necessity arises for making a forced march. After leaving

* The Takungurs are the Bowrees, *alias* Bagrees, *alias* Budhuks ; and the language they speak must be Guzeratee.—W. H. S.

† The Kolhaties are the Bereeas, who are supposed to be descended from Mullanoor, the brother of Sains Mull.—W. H. S.

“ home, the party generally proceed two or three hundred miles, in a
 “ direct line towards the place best suited for their purpose, as we are
 “ averse to committing any Decoitee, except at a long distance from our
 “ principal encampment. Having got so far, the party encamp in some
 “ convenient jungle, where they are not likely to attract notice or atten-
 “ tion. Two or three intelligent men are then selected as spies, and sent
 “ to places fifty or sixty miles in advance, to gain intelligence regarding
 “ the better class of shopkeepers and sahookars, and the best places for
 “ the commission of Decoitee. These men are generally supplied with
 “ gold and silver, a small supply of rupees, and a few gold and silver
 “ ornaments, so that under the pretext of disposing of these articles, they
 “ may, without exciting suspicion, frequent the shops of the better class
 “ of merchants, goldsmiths, &c.

“ After selecting a house or shop, which appears best suited for their
 “ purpose, the next object to be ascertained is, in what particular part of
 “ his shop, the owner secretes the more valuable portions of his property.
 “ With this view, we generally contrive to go to the spot very early in the
 “ morning, and under the pretence of wishing to purchase gold orna-
 “ ments, or to exchange the money we have brought with us, for some
 “ other currency, ascertain where the owner is in the habit of putting
 “ them over night. Were we to go in the day time, this could not be
 “ done, as these people generally at daybreak bring out from the better
 “ secured places, in their houses, such money and property as they may
 “ require during the day, and return them again in the evening.

“ When all the information required is procured, in as far as it
 “ is practicable to do so, without exciting suspicion, the scouts return to
 “ our camp, and from the report they furnish, we make up our minds
 “ to attempt the Decoitee or not. If we determine to do so, we strike
 “ our camp, and move it to some convenient place, away from the high-
 “ road, and eighteen or twenty miles distant from the scene of our intend-
 “ ed operations. Here we leave the women, with orders to prepare food
 “ for three or four days' consumption ; and after dark, to pack up all
 “ the baggage, and to be ready to move at a moment's warning, at any
 “ time of the night at which we may return.

“ We time our departure from camp generally in such a manner,
 “ as to reach the vicinity of our destination in the evening, about twilight ;
 “ the place of rendezvous being generally a spot, where some days previ-
 “ ously, we have contrived to secrete, in the dry bed of a nullah, or
 “ river, or in some covered drain, the axes and spears, which we use on
 “ these occasions.

“ The torch we employ is brought with us, concealed under the
 “ clothes of the man appointed to carry it ; but as it is reckoned by
 “ us most unlucky to use any oil for it, but such as is actually procured in
 “ the village, where the Decoitee is to take place, a man is sent in on our
 “ arrival, to get what we require, and, on his return, the vessel contain-
 “ ing the oil is made over to the man, whose sole duty it is to look after
 “ the mussal or torch. Much superstition exists regarding what occurs
 “ after the oil reaches the place of rendezvous, as on it depends our
 “ success or otherwise. The vessel which contains the oil is not allowed
 “ to touch the earth, till its contents have been poured on the mussal,
 “ when it is dashed upon the ground. From the time that the oil has
 “ been brought to us, till the Decoitee has been completed, no one is
 “ allowed to drink water, to spit, or to answer any of the calls of
 “ nature. The neglect of any of these precautions is supposed to lead
 “ to results fatal to some one or other of the party. When the torch
 “ has been well saturated with oil, and prepared in such a manner as to
 “ light on the first application of fire, a light is struck with flint and
 “ steel, and smothered up in some clean dry cloth, which by the time we
 “ reach the spot to be attacked, admits of its being blown in an instant
 “ into a flame, from which the torch is at once lit.

“ This is the signal for the attack. The party who have already
 “ entered the place, in a straggling order, to avoid observation, pro-
 “ ceed each to the performance of the duty assigned him : some break
 “ down the door of the house, others guard the approaches, and stab, with
 “ their spears, every one who ventures to approach the spot. The locks
 “ and doors generally give way, after a few heavy blows of the axe, which
 “ long experience has taught many of our tribe to wield with great effect.
 “ This operation is superintended by the scout, who knows all the locali-
 “ ties of the place, and points out where he supposes the money and
 “ valuables, belonging to the shop, to be lodged. Once in possession of the
 “ property, the mussal is immediately extinguished, and the whole party,
 “ on this signal, make off as rapidly as possible. If they meet with
 “ opposition, they, of course, cut down or stab every one that comes
 “ within their reach ; and if on the other hand, any of our own people
 “ are killed, or so desperately wounded that we cannot remove them, we
 “ cut off their heads, to prevent their being recognised ; those who are
 “ slightly wounded, are carried off by their comrades ; but if the pursuit
 “ be hot, we are for the same reason obliged, rather than relinquish
 “ them, to put them to death, and carry off their heads, which we subse-
 “ quently bury in some convenient place.

“ After leaving the scene of Decoitee, we proceed, as fast as we can,
 “ towards the place where we have left our camp, and halt : when we reach

“ some convenient place a short distance from it. We then send an
 “ intimation of our arrival to the women, who have every thing ready
 “ packed, and immediately join us. The whole gang then mount their
 “ tattoos and mules, and proceed by by-paths across the country, as
 “ rapidly as they can, and to as great a distance as they can get their
 “ animals to travel, without a halt. This they continue for several suc-
 “ cessive days, till they are beyond all fear of pursuit. If the booty
 “ obtained on the Decoitee is good, we bring our expedition to a close,
 “ and join our families ; if not, we remove to some other part of the coun-
 “ try, and again proceed in the manner described.

“ When we perpetrated the Bolarum Decoitee, in 1837, we had left
 “ the principal part of our families in the Sewala Talooka, near Hingolee,
 “ two hundred and twenty-five miles from this, and subsequently pitched
 “ our camp near Sadaseopeth, a large town, forty miles from Hyderabad,
 “ on the Beder road. From this place, I and four others came on to
 “ Hyderabad, where we looked about us for five days, but finding nothing
 “ likely to suit our purpose, we went to Bolarum, and took up our
 “ quarters at a buneya's shop, in the village of Alwal, close to the can-
 “ tonments. In the cantonments, we soon discovered a respectable
 “ looking shop, which appeared well suited for a Decoitee. Early one
 “ morning, I took fifty shuhr-chelnee rupees with me, and went to the
 “ shop, where I found the owner transacting business. I asked him
 “ to exchange the shuhr-chelnee for bagh-chelnee rupees, and when I
 “ had agreed to give him one pice discount on each rupee, he went
 “ and unlocked one of two large sized boxes, which I saw in an inner
 “ room, out of which he took the money I required. I also noticed some
 “ silver horse furniture hanging upon a peg on the wall, and in a niche,
 “ a dagger and a pair of pistols.

“ Having thus obtained all the information I required, as to the
 “ exact spot where the property was likely to be found, I next examined
 “ the position of the different guards, likely to interrupt us in the act
 “ of breaking into the house. I found that a guard of eighteen men
 “ was stationed at the chowrie, some distance off, and that a sentry was
 “ posted at night, at a place where four streets met, close to the shop I
 “ had reconnoitred. From the latter, I feared no opposition, as he could
 “ easily be overpowered, and we calculated upon breaking into the
 “ house, before the chowrie guard could turn out, and come to the rescue
 “ of the banker.

“ I then returned to my comrades, with whom I remained for
 “ two days, making ourselves acquainted with all the localities about
 “ the place, the roads leading from it, and in fact with every thing

“ that might be of use to us in the enterprise, we were about to undertake ; among other things, we learnt, that after gun-fire, or eight o'clock, the guard had orders to stop all parties entering the cantonments ; and we, therefore, determined to commence operations before that hour.

“ We then returned to Sadaseopeth, and on relating the result of our proceedings to the gang, it was determined to risk a Decoitee on the sowcar's house at Bolarum. Our next proceeding was to convey, as secretly as possible, to the vicinity of that place, sufficient arms and axes to answer our purpose, these were made up into bundles, and entrusted to four men, who proceeded in the night time to Puttuncherloo, and on the following night, a couple of hours before day-break, we reached a small nullah, behind the mosque, near Bolarum, where the axes and spears were carefully buried in the sand. The rest of our party, in the mean time, struck their camp, and, leaving the high-road, made to the village of Tillapoor, about eight or nine miles from the fort of Golcondah.

“ The gang chosen for the Decoitee, consisted of twenty-four able men, under Rungelah Jemadar and myself, and left Tillapoor about ten o'clock in the forenoon, and, in small parties of twos and threes, reached, at twilight, the spot where our arms were concealed. We then procured some oil from the shop in the cantonments, and about half-past seven, or nearly eight o'clock, we proceeded, in straggling order, towards the shop about to be attacked, and which we reached, without being challenged by any one. The sentry, posted near the shop we were about to attack, did not appear to suspect or notice us, and the moment our mussal was lighted, he was speared by Barahain Shah and Kistniah, while others commenced breaking in the doors of the inner room, the outer partition of the shop having been found open. Three bankers, whom we found writing their accounts in the outer shop, rushed into the house, and disappeared. The lock of the door yielded to one blow of the axe from Rungelah ; and, on throwing down the planks, of which it was formed, we found the box, which I had seen on a former occasion, unlocked and open. Out of this, we took sixteen bags full of money, leaving four, which we were obliged to relinquish, as we were pressed for time, and had not sufficient men at hand to remove them. The whole place was now in a state of commotion and uproar ; and as we drew off as fast as we could, we were followed, by a crowd of camp followers and Sipahes, to the place where a number of bullocks were picketted. We here struck into the paddy fields, and across these, our pursuers did not attempt to follow us. A short distance from Bolarum, two of the bags broke, and the money fell to

“ the ground ; and, as it was dark, and we had no time to search for it,
 “ we lost nearly fifteen hundred rupees.

“ After this, we continued our flight through Kokatapilly, Gungarum, and Singumpilly, to Tillapoor, which we reached about three o'clock in the morning. As our families were all in readiness to move, we were able to mount our ponies at once, and, without a halt, to reach the vicinity of Koheer, before nightfall, on the same day. On the following day, we reached the neighbourhood of Chiteoopah ; on the third, the banks of the Manjra, about six miles from Moorgh ; and on the fourth, the vicinity of Oodgheer ; thence we proceeded, by shorter marches, viâ Kandahar and Mandair, to our original encamping ground, in the Sewala Talooka. The day after the Decoitee, we examined our booty near Koheer, and found it to consist of fourteen thousand five hundred rupees, and one hundred and fifty rupees worth of silver horse furniture.

“ The above is the mode in which a Decoitee expedition is, under ordinary circumstances, conducted ; but as our success, or otherwise, depends on our observing and attending to the omens we may observe, I shall relate those which we consider the most important. We do not worship any particular Deity, in connexion with our profession ; but we find that success attends us, whenever we regard propitious omens, and misfortune is sure to befall us, whenever we disregard those of a contrary nature.”

Previous to leaving camp, the following are the propitious omens :

1st. If on starting, a jay flies from right to left of the road.

2nd. If a jackal crosses the road, it is considered an omen, that the gang will obtain large booty in silver.

3rd. If a Ghorpur, or Guana, is seen in any direction.

4th. If a donkey is heard to bray about twilight in the village, in which the shop or house to be attacked is situated.

5th. If, when the gang are on their way through the village to the scene of plunder, they meet with a corpse about to be carried out for burial, or for the purpose of being burnt.

Bad Omens.

1st. On the point of leaving the camp, if any one sneeze. Should this occur, the expedition is put off to the following day.

2nd. If, on the day on which we are to start, when the women are baking, a piece of bread breaks, or falls to pieces in their hands.

3rd. Ditto ditto, if one of the women breaks her bangle, or a water pot, or if any of our clothes are set on fire by a piece of lighted charcoal dropping from the hookka.

After the expedition has left the camp, the following are the unpropitious omens :

1st. If a snake cross the road.

2nd. If a gang meet a talee, or oil man, with a pitcher of oil in his hand.

3rd. If they are met by a carpenter.

4th. If they are met by any one carrying a new earthen pot.

5th. If they are met by a Brahmince woman, with her head shaven.

6th. If they are met by two cows, or two bullocks, tied or yoked together by their necks.

7th. If a wolf cross their path.

8th. If a fox ditto.

9th. If they fall in with a corpse, or a person digging a grave.

10th. If, on their approach to any village on their road, they find a corpse being burnt. No success will attend the expedition, that sees this omen, unless one of the party goes with a long stick, and thrusts it three times into the face of the corpse.

11th. If, when purchasing oil, and paying the man for the same, any one is heard to sneeze. This is one of the very worst omens that can be heard.

12th. If, on entering the village, where the Decoitee is about to take place, a cow is heard to low : on hearing this omen, if the gang do not return, one or more of the party is sure to lose his life in the affray.

“ These are the principal good and bad omens by which we are guided in conducting our expeditions. No good has ever resulted from inattention to them. For instance, about fifteen years ago, I was conducting a Decoitee upon Sattara, and on entering the river, on our way to the town, an old woman, who was preparing cow dung for fuel, was heard to sneeze. My followers wished to retrace their steps, but I insisted upon going on ; and as I was subsequently escaping from the town, after the Decoitee, I fell down a deep pit, and injured my back so severely, that I could not move for six months. My life was on this occasion saved, with extreme difficulty, by my followers, who dragged me out, and carried me off on their backs.

“ In the distribution of the booty we have obtained, we are generally guided by the following rules : having first agreed among ourselves how much is to be put on one side, to cover the expenses of a Bundhara feast, in honor of Bhugwan, the Supreme Being, ten per cent. of the remainder is taken, and given to the Jemadars engaged in the affair, and from the remainder we deduct all the expenses attending the expedition ; such, for instance, as the purchase of arms, gaining intelligence, and expense of oil, &c. The balance left, is then divided among all the members of the gang, two shares being paid to the Jemadars, a whole share to every Decoit actually present at the affair, and a half share to every widow at home. A fee is also given, after each Decoitee, to the bearer of the *mussal*.

“ Our first initiation into Decoitee is not attended with any religious ceremonies ; but when our youths have obtained their full strength, and appear sufficiently intelligent to be trusted in such matters, they are taken out on an expedition, and no difference is afterwards made between them and other members of the gang. While out, employed on these expeditions, we remain in our camps, which we shift occasionally, and pretend to gain a livelihood by buying and selling tattoos, asses, and mules. Our women used formerly to obtain money by dancing and singing ; but since we emigrated to the Deccan, they have discontinued this practice. The Zemindars and country people are, however, perfectly well acquainted with the fact that we gain our livelihood by robbery ; and we are, in consequence, obliged, from time to time, to make them presents of money, to induce them not to molest

“ us ; for instance, on our return from the Bolarum Decoitee, we paid
 “ Megh Sham Baba, the Deshmookh of Dhoontee, one hundred rupees,
 “ and Imrut Row, of Dhongurgoam, the Sir Deshmookh of Sewala, three
 “ hundred and fifty rupees.”

The first affair in which I was engaged, was that of a Decoitee at Purbunny, to which I was taken by my father, when I was twenty years of age ; and I have since been engaged, as far as my memory goes, in twenty Decoitees on a large scale. Two years before the fall of Bhurt-poor, I accompanied my father, and a considerable gang, into Malwa, where we perpetrated four Decoitees. In consequence, however, of a drunken affray between me and my brother-in-law, we were seized, and lodged in prison, at Hoshungabad, on a charge of being Decoits. Nothing definite, however, could be proved against us ; and the Magistrate, before whom we were brought for examination, directed that we should be released, on furnishing security for our future good conduct. Some time elapsed before the securities offered were approved of, when we were sent to the frontier, under the charge of one of the Magistrate's peons, and allowed to return to the Deccan, where we continued to follow our usual profession of Decoitee. About eleven years ago, I had led a Decoitee on the house of a Guzeratee Sahookar, in the town of Aurungabad, and after securing one thousand one hundred and fifty rupees, effected my escape, with the rest of the gang. On the third day, however, after the affair, the Government troops, who had been sent in pursuit of us, came up and took me, Hunmutta, and Khyma, prisoners, and carried us back to Aurungabad. I was kept in confinement, in the jail of that place, for seven years, when I was sent down to Hyderabad, and subsequently made over to your charge.

(Signed) D. A. MALCOLM, *Captain,*
Assistant Resident, and Extra Assist. General Supt.

Mundhir, a leader of some note of the Sanseea Decoits, was, as already stated, arrested with part of his gang, soon after they had committed, in the town of Patna, on the 29th May 1845, a Decoitee, in which they had acquired a booty of two thousand four hundred and twenty-four rupees, and killed four, and wounded fourteen persons. His ancestors had been, for some generations, in the Kotah and Boondee territories ; but his father, Mullah, *alias* Dorgroo, a leader of great note, had first removed to the village of Chourahait, in the Hoshungabad district, in the valley of the Nerbudda, and, subsequently, to the Omrowtee district, in the Hyderabad territory. He was killed in a Decoitee at Berhampoor, in the Ganjam

district, about the year 1827; and his son, Mundhir, succeeded to the command of a part of his gang, the rest having refused to trust themselves under the guidance of a young man so much addicted, as he had become, to the bottle. This desertion alarmed him into more sober habits, and he continued to lead the gang, till he was arrested in 1845.

He gave a narrative of his life, at Patna, in August and September 1847, before Captain Clarke, and described all the Decoitees in which he had taken a leading part, and which have, for the most part, been already verified by a reference to local authorities, over the following vast range of country, through which the gang appears to have been continually on the move, except during the rainy season—Hyderabad, Ganjam, Omrowtee, and Elichpoor, Cuttack, Hazareebagh, Shereghatee, Hurda, and Handeea, and Mundesore, on the Nerbudda—back to Elichpoor, and through Nandair, Hyderabad, Chanda Nagpoor, Moltae, and Baitool, Jubulpoor, Rewah, Mirzapoor, Chunar, Mundala, Jubulpoor—where they were arrested by Captain Ramsay, in the month of April 1842. Unable to find proof of any specific Decoitee against the gang, he sent them to the Resident at Nagpoor, who made them over to the Rajah, who had them escorted over his southern border into the Hyderabad territory, whence they returned in a few days, and committed a Decoitee in the capital of Nagpoor, and got a booty of three thousand five hundred rupees; thence they proceeded, through Ramteek, Sumbulpoor, Shereghatee, again into Behar, where they committed a Decoitee at Daood Nugur, on the 13th of April 1844, killed two and wounded three men, and got a booty of two thousand one hundred and thirty-four rupees. They then crossed the Soan river, and went on, through Mirzapoor, Sohagpoor, Omarkantuk, Rutunpoor, Cuttack, Jugurnath, to Berhampoor, in Ganjam, where they committed a Decoitee, on the 2nd February 1845. In all the districts above named, they committed Decoitees of the same kind, almost always attended with murder, and the loss of much property. The account of his arrest, after the Decoitee at Patna, on the 29th May 1845, I must give in Mundhir's own words, from his long narrative, taken down by Captain Clarke.

“ After the affair at Berhampoor, in Ganjam, at Etodh, in the
 “ Cuttack district, we attacked the shop of Benee Sing, a large ship-
 “ owner, and dealer in brass, copper, &c. We only got one hundred
 “ and fifty rupees worth of things; among them, five or six small silver
 “ tumblers. We got clean off, and set out for Hazareebagh, near which
 “ we remained for two days, and then came to Boodh Gyah. The whole
 “ of the Dukhun was filled with approvers, on the look out for us;
 “ and we were obliged to leave our haunts there, for fear of our lives.
 “ From Boodh Gyah, we came to Gyah, and Gharya went off with

“ seven men to Tikaree. I, Gunput Row, and Surawun, preceded the rest
 “ to Patna ; they had instructions to follow by twos and threes, and to
 “ meet at any considerable stream there might be on the road to Patna,
 “ and near it. None of the party knew the country, but this was
 “ the agreement between us: Gunput Row, I, and Surawun, reconnoitred
 “ the premises of some promising bankers in Patna, and remained three
 “ days, and then went out to the Poon Poon Nuddee, about twelve miles
 “ off, where a few of our party had arrived. The others all came up on
 “ the following day. I am not sure whether it was the day succeeding
 “ that, or the next one, that we set out from the Poon Poon river ; about
 “ nine or ten A. M., sauntering on, we reached the chowk of Patna, as the
 “ day disappeared, and we found the door of the house we wanted open.
 “ Surawun, Jungee, Khunjur, and Bijlall, went in ; Punjab carried the
 “ mussal, which went out—this was very unfortunate, as many of
 “ us, who would otherwise have gone in, remained outside. We got two
 “ thousand rupees in cash, and a ‘ golābpāsh,’ and two silver tumblers,
 “ (i. e. kutoras) ; an alarm was given, but none of our people were hurt,
 “ and we got clear of Patna, and reached the Poon Poon that night
 “ about ten. Our women were about four coss off, in a garden, away from
 “ the road ; we went on to them, and, when the horses were ready, set out
 “ in the direction of Gyah, on the old road. About 9 A. M., we divided
 “ into two parties, and agreed to rendezvous the day after at Kuba Dol,
 “ whence we went off, on the Great Trunk Road, towards Baliva, (Chuttee)
 “ whence we struck off through the hills to Chittra ; from that we
 “ reached Lohurdugga, and remained there two or three days, when we
 “ went to a village, (which, I think, is called Ghuggra, upon the Nuddee
 “ of that name) and encamped in a garden.

“ On the morning of the following day, Punjab's daughter, a child
 “ of eighteen months, or two years old, died, and at his instance we
 “ halted. About 9 or 10 A. M., some of us were bathing, some gone to
 “ gather wood, and some were in the encampment, when a Darogah, with
 “ ten or fifteen men, came up and surprized us. I did not attempt
 “ to run away. I saw it was useless. The men, who were outside,
 “ collecting wood, &c., escaped. I, Punjab, Gowrah, Thanneah, Bhah-
 “ gurrh, and Subreeah, were caught ; eighteen women, ten children,
 “ twenty-eight ponies, and one dog, were also taken—we were kept there
 “ one day, and then sent to Gyah, and taken before the Magistrate, who
 “ simply ordered us to be taken to Patna, where we were taken before
 “ Mr. Lillie, who committed us for trial. Tegheea and Chawrun, who
 “ had separated from us with Gunput Row, when he left our band, were
 “ committed at the same time : they were at Tikaree, when we committed
 “ the Decoitee at Patna ; but were apprehended a few days after we were.
 “ I, and Gowrah, and Chawrun, and Tegheea, were fully acquitted, and

" fifteen of our women, who had been sent up for trial, were also acquitted and released. Bhahgurh, Punjab, Subreeah, and Thanneah, were sentenced to five years' imprisonment each. After my trial, the Magistrate said that we, who had been acquitted, must give security for good conduct, or be imprisoned for three years ; where were we to get security? so I, Gowrah, Thanneah, Bhahgurh, and Punjab, were sent to the jail at Deegha, and Chawrun and Tegheea were, I have heard, sent to Jhansee. After being confined eight or nine months, I think at Deegha, Major Elwall sent for me and Punjab, and asked us if we would confess. We denied that we had any thing to confess, saying that we were Nuths, &c. I remained all night at Bankipoor. I was the next day sent back to jail. Punjab did not return with me. About a month after, I was told Punjab had confessed; and in March of this year, I, Bhahgurh, Thanneah, and Gowrah, were charged with the Daoodnuggur Decoitee, and were committed on the 11th of May for trial by the Sessions Judge. I then applied to be admitted as an approver, and I confessed before you, and was after some time ordered to be admitted as an approver.

" I have two wives here, the name of the first is Killadarnee, so called because she was born in the fort of Soorupoor, and of the second Putmee: her father Subureeah, died in the Patna jail hospital. Killadarnee's father's name was Purdhan. I have but one son, aged five years, he is here, in the women's jail: Killadarnee is his mother. I have a daughter: I know not where she is: I left her with my mother, Phundo, in Deokur, pergunnah Dhunolha, district of Raepoor."

Tell me what you know of your ancestors ?

I cannot say much. My father's name was Mullah, *alias* Dorgroo, he was a Decoit, as I have stated; my grand-father, whose name was Khunneah, was also a Decoit; he went to Gwalior, and served a Marhatta officer as a foot soldier, and accompanied him to Poonah, where he met some connexions, and they commenced Decoitee together. I know nothing of earlier times. Thanneah's grand-father, whose name was Bartheea Lalloo, committed a grand Decoitee in Poonah, on the house of Balajee.

Do you admit strangers to your fraternity—if so, what is the form of doing it ?

When a man wishes to introduce a respectable lad to the fraternity, he gives an entertainment to them, of which the neophyte partakes, and

after eating, the giver of the feast stands up, and says before all, I adopt — as my son. We give them a new name, though they are also sometimes called by their old name. We admit, as converts, Koonbees and Rajpoots only, no other caste of Hindoos, nor any Mussalmans. We have two castes among ourselves, Kālkhur and Mālha, of which the former is the superior. I cannot say what the origin of this distinction is : these two may intermarry : there is no distinction in their respective customs. I am a Mālha.

Have you ever adopted any one ?

Yes, I adopted Jhoolia, the son of a Koonbec. In a time of famine, a fukeer asked me, if I would take the child. I took him and brought him up ; he was then about three years of age ; he accompanied me in two Decoitte expeditions, one to Etodh, and another (my second) to Brampoor, in Cuttack. Many converts have been thus admitted : they are not allowed to intermarry with us, they marry among themselves : there are always girls enough to furnish wives for them.

Are the descendants of these adopted ones allowed to intermarry with Mālhas and Kālkhurs ?

No, never.

State your religious belief ?

I believe in God—Ram, in Bhowanee, and in Sheikh Fureed, whose shrine is at Gierur, about nine coss from Hingunghat. There we make offerings after a successful expedition. Sheikh Fureed acquired his saintship thus : he first performed a devotional penance of twelve years, carrying about with him a load of wood tied to his stomach, but that was not accepted : next another, in which he ate nothing but forest leaves for twelve years—not accepted : lastly, his third trip, he hung himself up by his heels in iron chains in a Baolee at Gierur ; then he was taken up and asked, what he wanted, he said, to have every request granted ; this was promised, and he disappeared. Many people now pray to him for luck.

What is the most binding form of abjuration to speak the truth ?

Mundhir here hesitates, and says—Ganges water, &c., but I pressed him to the point, and after sometime he replies : the most binding form is to take a piece of new cotton cloth, which must be one and a quarter cubit square, neither more nor less, and to tie quarter seer of goor in it, then the questioning or accusing party hangs it up on the branch of a peepul tree, and the person, whose truth or innocence is to be tested,

is told to touch it with his right hand ; if he tells the truth, he will take no harm ; if he does not, he will fall sick within, or on the third day ; and the like, in cases of theft. We also consider Ganges water as sacred, but not so much so as this. Sometimes a "punch" is appointed to clear or convict an accused party. They proceed thus : accuser and accused appoint five men each, and each places five rupees before the punch ; after the punch have met and settled proceedings, they distribute sweetmeats, chiefly goor, and then retire to sleep by the banks of a stream, or near a pond, making with the accused eleven men. On the following morning, at break of day, they send the accused, with a staff, into the water breast-deep, then one of the punch lets fly an arrow from a bow ; upon its touching the ground, the punch call out 1-2-3-4-5-6-7—upon the 7th count, the accused is to dive, or to let the water cover all his body, holding by the staff—and at the same time, the best runner of the punch starts off to pick up the arrow ; if the accused can manage to keep under water, till the arrow is brought back, he is accounted innocent ; if not, guilty.

Do you perform any religious ceremonies before going on Decoitee ?

No, not before going out ; but when we return, we make offerings.

Are you guided by signs, or omens ; and do you attend much to them ?

We think it very favorable, if, when on the way to commit a Decoitee, we hear or see the jackal ; it is as good as gold and silver to us : also if we hear the bray of the ass in a village, we consider it to be lucky. If we meet a human corpse, or a snake, or if we see a wolf carrying off a sheep, or if one of our party sneezes, we turn back and defer the expedition for two or three days. The worst of these omens is—the human corpse.

Have you ever known an instance of evil overtaking the party, when these omens were disregarded ?

Yes, when we were on our way to attack Brampoor, we saw a body burning, and all the people said to my father—let us return, we shall have bad luck, but he said ; what matter ? let us now go on. I have heard that Suboora established this rule, as once one of his gang was killed, after meeting a corpse, thence Suboora made the rule.

Do you ever use any particular signals, on an alarm being given ?

If we want to express the necessity of speed or haste, we whistle—if to close up—another noise, which is something like the chuckle of a cock—another koo-koo—when we are much dispersed.

When you went to Mirzapoor, why did not you go on to the Doab ?

Because that beat belonged to my wife's uncle, Chukore, who has gone towards Poonah ; and it would be shabby to go there without an invitation. My beat was from Cuttack to Gyah, including Hazareebagh.*

What classes of Decoits have you been occasionally associated with ?

I have committed Decoitees with Koolhuttees, and they with me, and with Kurkharees, who frequent the district of Merich. There are three or four gangs of them. I have never been on business with Kurkharees myself, but my caste people have. We never go with *Keechuks*, or Budhuks. Mussulmans are occasionally invited to join us, if we are short of hands.

How do you proceed in the counting of the plunder, and its distribution ?

If there is no pursuit, when we reach the place where our women and baggage were left, we take an account of what we have got, and the property is packed the best way we can ; we make a distribution of it when we reach our homes ; we are obliged to trust each other, if any one is found out cheating, he gets no share.

What shares do those admitted into your fraternity receive ?

When they go on Decoitee with us, they get equal shares.

Where did you usually dispose of your stolen property ?

Usually to Sonars, who were in our confidence ; the names of some of them are :

1. Hursool Marwaree, of Mungroal, Pergunnah Koorha.

2. Jhubboo, Sonar, of Ooghal.

3. A Sonar of Amner, name not remembered.

4. Abba, Sonar, of Sunalih, twelve or fourteen coss from Hingolee—a very extensive receiver for several gangs ; among others, Grassiahs, Malchunds, Ghanjas, and the Tumbolins. We never take any thing but money, gold, and silver, and jewels ; occasionally we may take a piece of silk or so.

* The right to these exclusive beats was only for the season : no gang was admitted to have any permanent right to an exclusive beat.—W. H. S.

We sold the golden (gop) neck ornament of seven tolahs, which we got at Daoodnuggur, to a Zemindar and Mahajun of Deokur ; Gunput Row and Surawun took it to him, and got, I believe, one hundred rupees for it.

What disguise do you use in attacking ?

None.

What are you allowed to eat ?

The cow is sacred.

Tell me what ceremonies are used on making a Jemadar ?

When a man has got a little money, and is well to do, if he wishes to be a Jemadar, he gives a feast of liquor and goat's flesh, and is accepted, if he has friends enough.

Tell me your ceremonies on marriage ?

Our children are betrothed at eight or nine years of age : named at the age of puberty. Upon wishing to get a son married, the father would go to the father of the girl, whom he thinks suitable, and enter upon his business ; if agreed to, the boy's father would give the girl's father pawn and betel, and then the latter would give it to the former ; afterwards it would be distributed to all friends present, and after that the boy himself would present a cup of liquor to his intended father-in-law, and he, having drunk, would then present it to the boy's father ; then all would drink together. When the parties are marriageable, a Brahmin fixes a proper day, and the young bridegroom sets out for his father-in-law's, who, with his people, comes out to meet him. When they meet, the father-in-law and bridegroom alight, and the former takes his son-in-law's hand, and leads him to the building erected for the purpose ; there he is seated, and the bride brought out and placed by his left side, then their chudders (robes) are tied together either by the brother of the bridegroom, or by the brother or sister of the bride ;* then follow music, singing, and feasting, for five days—all at the boy's father-in-law's cost ; at night the bride and bridegroom sleep near each other, about two hāths (cubits) apart, some of each party's people sleep near them—this over, they go to the bridegroom's father's, and thence disperse. A man may have as many wives as he pleases. It would not be allowable to keep a concubine, that is, for a married man. My father was dead when I was married ; my mother may have spent four or five hundred rupees on my first marriage.

* I believe Brahmins always perform this part of the ceremony among respectable Hindoos.

Do you bury or burn your dead ?

We burn such as have been married, and we bury such as were unmarried.

If you disagree about plans, who decides ?

In general the men attend to the Jemadar ; but occasionally, if unanimous, he attends to their wishes.

In the Sherghotty affair, which you state to have been committed by *Keechuks*, how come you to remember, or to know the names of Munno and Mewah Lall, Khuzanchees ?

Lupechu and Grassiah told me, and we have often talked over the affair since.

Tell me why Jurrao went and informed against you, and who was she ?

Her husband's name was Dussai ; one of us accused them both of concealing some of the property taken from Chunda, and some blows passed. Dussai had buried some property on the top of a hill, with the help of one of our party, named Juggapa, and had promised some of it, but giving nothing, Juggapa told the Jemadars, upon which we threatened Dussai, and Jurrao, the wife, went and informed against us.

Were you not afraid of being seized in Jubbulpoor, when you went there to look out for intelligence ?

I did not know there were any approvers in Jubbulpoor. I thought they were at Saugor—Lupechu said so, that he knew it, having been seized near Oodgir, Pergunnah Rajnorees, with some property that he and others had plundered from Sattara ; thence they were sent to Chundoo Lall, who took the property from them, and sent them to Hingolee, whence they were sent to Saugor, to Colonel Sleeman, whose approvers, Kuleean and Feringhea, could not identify them, and they were released by Sleeman, the elder. Lupechu, Baryu, Lulum, Lowngheea, Jugdea, Jhingur, Kaim Khan, a boy five or six years old, named Gokah Bijlall, and Kowmtee, were the parties. I have heard this from Lupechu.

How many of your people do you suppose are still at large ?

About one or two hundred, I suppose.

How many Koolhutties at large ?

There may be five or six hundred.

Are you acquainted with any caste of Decoits, after whom pursuit has not yet begun ?

Yes—in the district of Oomrawutee and Ellichpoor, there is a caste, whom my caste call Bagurree—commonly known as Thakungurh ; they are much employed as Chowkeedars ; they are cultivators of the land ; are very numerous ; confine their operations to their own neighbourhoods, within a distance of ten or twenty coss ; upon a favorable opportunity presenting itself, they rendezvous and go to work ; they are also known as Pardhies and Guzerattees. I know some of them. Than Singh Jemadar, Korum-Wala, committed a Decoitee with my father in Oomrawutee, which was the way I first heard of them. I heard him and my father talking together. I was grown up.

Were you acquainted with many Thugs, when you were in the Deccan ?

I was acquainted with Mukhya and his gang, and Sheikh Meerun Jemadar, and Sheikh Nasir Gulakutta. They used to come and drink with us, and we also went to their places, and drank with them, in Mungrool, among other places. They lived at Kulassa-Memhora, four coss from Mungrool.

What language do you ordinarily use among yourselves ?

We ordinarily use Hindoostanee ; we use the dialect of our caste, which we call “Parsee,” when we don’t want to be understood by others.

Are you acquainted with any Banjara Naiks ?

Yes—I know Ramjee Naik, who lives in the Pergunnah of Sanalip ; Fukeera Naik, who lives in Oomurkher Pergunnah ; and Gaga Naik, who lives in Thamsa Pergunnah—these men are all Decoits : I have heard them say so. I have often drank with them, and heard them talk of their exploits.

Who was the cleverest Decoit you ever knew, and who the boldest ?

Surawun was the *cleverest*, I have ever known in getting information, and making arrangements. I consider, that I was the boldest ; and next, but not quite equal to me, was my brother Gunput Row.

Who is, or was, the most famous among your caste ?

The most celebrated Jemadar of our caste was Suboora. We still make offerings in his name, and we drink to his memory, and offer oblations to his manes. There were many of our caste at Ojeyn, Neemuch, Kotah, Jalra Patun, and in Rajwara.

The arrest of this gang was effected by the Magistrate of Patna, Mr. Lillie; and the circumstances are described in a letter, dated the 25th April 1848, from Major Riddell, who succeeded Captain Clarke, in the charge of the office. On hearing of the Decoitee, Mr. Lillie sent off a party, in pursuit of the perpetrators, under his three best Police officers, or Darogahs—Wuzeer Oddeen, Seobuksh, and Hyder Buksh. With but faint traces, this party followed the gang to Jetoora, fifty-four miles from Patna, where they had at first rested after the Decoitee. Thence they followed them twenty-eight miles to Wuzeer Gunge, where they had again rested.

The traces were, however, still so faint in a jungly and hilly tract of country, that nothing but the greatest skill and caution could have enabled the party to make them out. On the morning of the sixteenth day of the pursuit, after a march of sixteen miles, they heard from a traveller, whom they met near the village of Kharoo, in the district of Chota Nagpoor, two hundred and twenty-two miles from Patna, that a party, resembling that after which they enquired, was lodged in a neighbouring mangoe grove. Arrangements were made for surrounding this grove, but they were perceived as they approached, and the gang all made for the jungles. The police followed and secured eight of the men, with eighteen women, and some children.

They found that the gang had stayed in this grove, longer than they intended, to bury one of their children, who had died there; and after their arrest, they prayed for permission to complete the interment. This was granted; but Hyder Buksh suspected that they might attempt to play them some trick in these ceremonies, and demanded to see the body when they were about to commit it to the earth. They did all they could to dissuade him from so cruel a demand, but he was resolute, and they at last yielded. In showing the body, the shroud was more displaced than they intended, and the Darogah observed an extraordinary protuberance on the back of the child, which he made them uncover. It consisted of a silver utensil for sprinkling utter of roses, another for containing utter and pawn, and a small flower pot, all belonging to the booty, which they had acquired in the Patna Decoitee, and which they were very unwilling to lose, or have brought against them as evidence at the trial. Nothing could be better than the conduct of this party in the pursuit; and the three Darogahs and their followers

have been suitably rewarded by the Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police in Bengal, to whom their good services were reported.

In the year 1824, a gang of twenty Sansees Decoits, under three leaders—Nabee, Govinda, and Tarachund, after committing numerous Decoitees over the districts of the Bombay Presidency, was arrested by Mr. John Munro, of the Civil Service, the nephew of Sir Thomas Munro, in the Dharwar district, and committed for trial before the Sessions Court of Chittore, as that part of the country was then under the Madras Presidency. The three leaders were sentenced to transportation, and their seventeen followers were released, to return to their trade.

- 1 Nawab Jemadar, son of Bhartee, transported.
- 2 Gobinda, *alias* Eetoo, Nawab's motsuddee, transported.
- 3 Tarachund, son of Bhartee, transported.
- 4 Chinta Mul, *alias* Choteea, approver, Nagpoor.
- 5 Ghatkeea Jemadar, son of Kufoor Chund, arrested at Nagpoor, 1847.
- 6 Dhunkaloo, son of Seetaram, dead.
- 7 Doaleea, adopted son of Nawab, dead.
- 8 Dewan, son of Seetaram, died of cholera.
- 9 Sillahdar, *alias* Silleea, died many years ago.
- *10 Angreez, son of Bhartee, dead.
- 11 Rusool, son of Seetaram, dead.
- 12 Ooka, dead.
- 13 Bhowaneea, a woman, dead.
- 14 Mujeeta, dead.
- 15 Runjeet, son of Lulloo, died five years ago.
- 16 Ooda, *alias* Inna, dead.
- 17 Sikdar, *alias* Sikeea, son of Eetoo, dead.
- 18 Tuneea, *alias* Tunneeban, son of Nawab, arrested and made approver at Patna, 1846.
- 19 Ebranis, *alias* Brahim Shah, son of Okka, dead.
- 20 Patecut, son of Lulloo, dead.

Their names are given in the margin; and from that time the gangs of this class continued to depredate from Dharwar and the southern Marhatta country, west, to Mirzapoor, on the Ganges, east, and from Hyderabad, south, to Dholepoor, on the Chumbul, to Ajmeer and Neemuch, north, frequently traversing the whole of this space during the eight months, from October to June, and resting, during the rains, in the most convenient jungle they found. In 1845, there were three small gangs in the dis-

tricts of the Bombay Presidency, who were joined occasionally, as their enterprises were beyond their means, by parties of Lumbaries, and Bereeas, *alias* Koolhaties, who infested the same districts in great numbers as vagrants, earning their bread by begging, stealing, and occasionally joining the Sansees gangs in Decoitees. One gang belonged to Chukore and his three brothers, Bankeea, Gokaleea, and Mahadeo. Chukore, with some of the gang, had been arrested by a party sent in pursuit of them by Captain Harris from Indore, who took down a long and interesting

* Choteea stated before Captain Ramsay at Nagpoor, 25th June 1847, "that he was with Nawab's gang, when they committed a Decoitee in the Belehree cantonments, in the month of March, about twenty eight years ago. After the Decoitee, they went to Kurpa, in the Madras territory, where they fell in with the gang, under Ramjee Jemadar, who meditated an attack upon the house of a banker at that place, named Bhugwant Row. He and Nawab Jemadar had a dispute about it; and Ramjee went off in a rage to a police guard, at Rajee Peth, one day's journey distant, and stated, that Nawab had come with a gang of robbers to make this attack. The police seized all Nawab's gang, and sent them to the Magistrate at Belehree. The merchants they had robbed at that place recognised Nawab, his aunt, Bhowaneea Bae, and some articles of property. Nawab, his Motsuddee Eetoo, and Tarachund, Nawab's brother, were transported; and the other sixteen, with Bhowaneea Bae, were sentenced to imprisonment, on a requisition of security, which they afterwards furnished. On getting out of jail, they all went and joined other gangs, under Grassees and other leaders, then in the Dukun."

narrative of his life ; and his gang was now under Bankeea. The second gang was under Ghuraseea and Ghasee ; and the third under Kankeea.

Ghuraseea's gang had recently committed Decoitees at Poona, Bursee in Sholapoor, Gokul, Meeritch, and other places ; and Bankeea's at Hunmun, Saugor, and other places. On the 30th of June 1845, these two gangs united, and attacked the house of a Guzeratee merchant, in the town of Sholapoor, near the police guard room, killed the merchant and two of his family, and carried off property to the value of two thousand rupees. They were followed by a large party of police, horse and foot, and by a body of the towns' people collected for the purpose ; but they made good their retreat to the vicinity of Soorjungow, where they had left their families. Taking them with them, they proceeded on, without resting, through Balaghat, Toljapoor, Kurra, Ashtee, and Ootoor, to the village of Jamla, in the Poona district, near Jonere, where they remained the whole of the rains. In October they set out again, and proceeded through Serore Chumargonda, Judapoor, to the village of Musoor, in the Sattara territory. After resting here some time, they proceeded to Kalapoor, and thence to Neingam, where they were arrested, on suspicion, by a Brahman officer in the service of the Sattara Rajah, who retained them for a fortnight, and then sent them to a Police officer at Kanapoor. He sent them off, under an escort of four mounted and eight foot police men, to the Rajah, who had them placed in a small shed, with their women and children, and without fetters.

Some short time before, in March 1846, a party of Captain Malcolm's Nujeebs, from Hyderabad, had fallen in with the gang of Kankeea, at Aleshwar, and secured four of them ; Kankeea himself, with three of his followers, made his escape. The four prisoners were taken to Captain Meadows Taylor, the Political Agent ; and before him, Bhow,

1 Bhow, *alias* Orba.

2 Alfur, *alias* Alpee.

3 Rumbha.

4 Omrow, a boy.

one of the prisoners, confessed ; and among other things mentioned, that he had lately seen a party of thirteen, from Chukore's gang, crossing the district towards Beejapoor, and recorded their names. Captain Taylor sent copies of this narrative to Captain Hervey, of the Thuggee department, at Belgaum, and to all adjacent Magistrates. Captain Hervey issued a proclamation, setting forth the information given to Captain Taylor by Bhow, and upon it the thirteen Sansceas of Chukore's gang were arrested in the Dharwar district ; but they gave in fictitious names ; and not supposing them to be the persons required, the Magistrate of Dharwar sent them over his border into Belgaum, the Magistrate of which district handed them over his boundary into that of Kulludgee. The Assistant Magistrate of this district, hearing that these men styled themselves " Guzerattee Dhombaries," and that men under this denomination had

formerly committed many daring Decoitees in that quarter, had twelve of them secured and confined in Bhagul Kote, where an atrocious Decoitee had been lately perpetrated by Kankee's gang. The Assistant Magistrate supposed them to be the perpetrators, and on that ground retained them. The thirteenth, Buneea, had died of cholera just before the party was secured. Captain Hervey had not yet received any authority to proceed against Decoits.

As soon as Captain Malcolm received the small party from Aleshwar, they told him of the Almulla Decoitee, gave him some of the articles taken, and told him that the gang had gone towards Sattara; and on the 15th of May 1846, he addressed Colonel Outram, the Resident at Sattara, and the Magistrate of Sholapoor gave them all the information he had collected, and solicited their aid in the pursuit of the offenders. He, at the same time, sent off a party of Nujeebs, with some of the confessing prisoners, and some of the articles of property taken in the Almulla Decoitee, to Sholapoor. On the 27th of July 1846, Colonel Outram reported to him the arrest which had taken place, and gave the names and descriptions of the parties; and finding that they corresponded with those given in to him by the Aleshwar prisoners, he, on the 4th of August, requested Colonel Outram to have the Sattara prisoners sent to the Magistrate of Sholapoor, should they be satisfactorily recognised by the confessing prisoners as belonging to the gang that had committed the recent Decoitees.

As soon as the Sanseea prisoners at Sattara heard, through their women, of the arrival of Captain Malcolm's guard from Hyderabad, with Sanseea approvers, they despaired of being any longer able to conceal their vocation; and soon after dark, the men all broke prison, and made off, leaving their women and children behind them.* All the horse and foot that could be collected at Sattara, were sent in pursuit, with torches; and at a distance of sixteen miles from the city, they succeeded in arresting three of the fugitives, Ghuraseea, Ghasee, and Jullajee, after wounding Ghuraseea with a spear, and Ghasee with a sword. Eight days after, near a village, fifty miles from Sattara, three more, Siddoo, *alias* Kokatee, Bunsee, and Huree, while taking their dinner in the bed of a rivulet, were seized by the head man of the village, at the suggestion of a man passing with a flock of goats, who had heard of the escape and pursuit, and thought these men looked very like robbers. Mokasee, another member of the gang, was soon after taken by some of the Sattara police, and all seven were put into confinement by the Sattara Rajah. Bankeea

* Unfortunately, Captain Malcolm's party had no letter of introduction, and were several days in the cantonments, before they went to the Resident, and, in consequence, the prisoners heard of their arrival before he did, or they would have been better secured.—W. H. S.

and Gokulleea, with nine of their followers, had separated from Ghuraseea and his party, four days after the Sholapoor Decoitee, near the village of Wasee, above the Balaghat Pass, leaving only sixteen, with Bankee and his brother, but they were soon after rejoined by three of these men, and three others of the fraternity, who had not been present at the Sholapoor Decoitee, making Bankeea's party twenty-two, when they were first taken

- 1 Bheemeea, son of Bala.
- 2 Kesureea, his brother.
- 3 Sirkar, son of Rusool.
- 4 Karkoree, son of Chungeea.
- 5 Chundoo, son of Iswunt Row.
- 6 Kokatee, son of Neel Kont.
- 7 Jugdeea, son of Heeramun.
- 8 Dhokulleea, son of Rungeela.
- 9 Kugleen, son of Maun Sing.
- 10 Kurmul, son of Mujeeta.
- 11 Mushur Ali, his brother.
- 12 Ashruf, son of Nizam Ali.
- 13 Bargeer, son of Lowneea.
- 14 Sowanjee, son of Bargeer.
- 15 Ilnee, his brother.

and confined at Sattara. The names of the fifteen, who escaped out of the twenty-two, are given in the margin. The three men, who joined Ghuraseea's party in their retreat, had been engaged with the gang of Kankeea, in the Almulla Decoitee, on the 26th June 1845, four days before that at Sholapoor. The attack

was upon the house of a widow lady, at Almulla, and she escaped, with her aged father, by rushing with him into an inner apartment, and closing the door.* The Decoits took off property to the value of about thirteen hundred rupees. On the division of this booty, a dispute arose, and part of the gang left Kankeea and joined Ghuraseea, as above described.

Three other members of the gang had been secured at Sattara, and the whole ten, with eighteen women and eighteen children, were, at Colonel Outram's request, sent by the Sattara Rajah to Mr. Gray, the Assistant Magistrate at Sholapoor, under Captain Malcolm's party of Nujeebs from Hyderabad. Eight out of the ten, without any hesitation, avowed to Mr. Gray their participation in the Decoitees at Almulla and Sholapoor, and described the circumstances connected with them in their depositions, which he forwarded in his letter of the 12th November 1846, to the Magistrate, Mr. Coles, with the prisoners. As the evidence against the prisoners was so clear, Mr. Coles would have retained them for trial before the Sessions Court, but both he and Mr. Gray concurred with Captain Malcolm in the opinion, that they would be more likely to lead to the arrest and conviction of their associates by being sent to Captain Malcolm at Hyderabad, and they were forwarded to him accordingly, in the middle of November 1846.

The numerous daring Decoitees which had taken place in the Bombay districts and Southern Marhatta country, from the time of the arrest above mentioned, by Mr. John Munro in 1824, to that of the four members of Kankeea's gang at Aleshwar, by Captain Malcolm, and that of Bankeea's gang in Kulludgee, by the Assistant Magistrate, and that of

* The Decoits killed one man, and wounded two more, in this Decoitee, at Almulla.—W. H. S.

Ghuraseea's gang, by the Sattara Rajah in 1846, had been attributed to conspiracies, ~~and~~ connivance of Native Chiefs with casual offenders, and to every other cause than the real one, because it was supposed that Decoits, by hereditary profession, were confined to Hindoostan, and neither resided in, nor visited the districts of Southern India. It was now sufficiently clear, that they did visit and reside in these districts, and their attacks had become so numerous and daring, that the people of many towns and villages thought it necessary to secure themselves by building walls around them. In the hope of acquiring information, and making himself useful in the suppression of these gangs, Captain Hervey left Belgaum to visit Captain Malcolm at Hyderabad, and the prisoners from Sattara reached that place a few days after him.

He assisted Captain Malcolm in taking down the narratives which they recorded of their lives, and in collating them with similar narratives recorded before other officers of the department at Indore, Nagpoor, Patna, Jubbulpoor, and Jhansi. The information thus acquired was submitted by me, on the 12th of April 1847, to the Bombay Government; and Captain Hervey was, in May following, invested with authority to co-operate, over all the districts of the Bombay Presidency, with Captain Malcolm, in the suppression of these gangs. On his way back, he visited the prisoners at Bhagul Kote, and he found that they all belonged to the Sansees fraternity. Captain Malcolm made over to him the

*Prisoners made over to Captain Hervey,
by Captain Malcolm.*

- 1 Ghuraseea Jemadar.
- 2 Bunsee.
- 3 Kokatee, alias Siddoo.
- 4 Alfin.
- 5 Bhow.
- 6 Rumbha.
- 7 Omrow.
- 8 Hurree.
- 9 Ghasee.
- 10 Mokassee.
- 11 Julloojee.

Bhagul Kote Prisoners.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Bankeea. | } Brothers of Chukore. |
| 2 Gokuleea. | |
| 3 Mahadeo. | |
| 4 Nadir. | |
| 5 Bhugoteea, his brother. | |
| 6 Nazur Ali. | |
| 7 Lakeea. | |
| 8 Sorma. | |
| 9 Muxboot. | |
| 10 Brij Lal. | |
| 11 Bulsing. | |
| 12 Minhar. | |
| 13 Bunsee, died of Cholera. | |

eleven prisoners named in the margin, to be committed for trial in the Bombay districts, where they had been all engaged in Decoities; and on confronting them with the Bhagul Kote prisoners, he found that the latter all belonged to the gang of Bankeea, who had been denounced to Captain Taylor by Bhow, one of the four prisoners arrested by Captain Malcolm at Aleshwar, and who had separated from Ghuraseea's gang after the Decoitee at Sholapoor, and before their capture in Sattara. The Bhagul Kote prisoners were made over to him by the Magistrate, as it was found that the Decoitee at that place had not, as was supposed, been

committed by this gang, but by that of Kankeea, all of whom were still at large, except the four arrested by Captain Malcolm at Aleshwar. Minhar had, however, effected his escape from the Bhagul Kote jail; but

he was re-arrested by Captain Malcolm, on information furnished by Captain Hervey, in October 1847.

A very atrocious Decoitee had taken place at Gudduk, in the month of April 1847, and the local authorities could discover no trace whatever of the perpetrators. It now appeared clear to Captain Hervey, that this must have been committed by Kankeea's gang, the only one of the three gangs now left in a condition to venture upon such an enterprise; and having obtained full authority to pursue this class of offenders, and been enjoined by the Government of Bombay to exert himself to the utmost in search of the perpetrators of this cruel outrage, and to place himself, for the purpose, in communication with the Political Agent in the southern Marhatta country, he sent all his available means to the frontier, in the neighbourhood of Talikote, where he had discovered traces of the gang, and followed soon after to superintend the pursuit in person; and in September 1847, he succeeded in capturing the leader, Kankeea, with three of his gang, and the party of Lumbarries whom they had

- 1 Kankeea, now Approver.
- 2 Kishneea.
- 3 Chouseea.
- 4 Resaldar.
- 5 Lalloo Naek Lumbarrie.
- 6 Chota Luchmun, ditto.
- 7 Bura Luchmun, ditto.
- 8 Gora Thukoreea, ditto.
- 9 Kalla Thukoreea, ditto.
- 10 Dhunae, ditto.
- 11 Rodra, ditto.
- 12 Tejeea, ditto.
- 13 Toljeea, ditto.
- 14 Khitae, ditto.
- 15 Khowareea, ditto.
- 16 Chokeea, ditto.
- 17 Ramjee Sonar.
- 18 Sewae, ditto.
- 19 Luchmun, ditto.

associated, with his very small band in the Decoitees at Gudduk and Bhagul Kote. Having been informed by the Assistant Magistrate of Kulludgee, that he had heard from his Cotwal that these men, calling themselves "Guzeratee Dombaries," had in the time of Mr. John Munro, in 1824, been in the habit of committing atrocious Decoitees in those parts of the Bombay Presidency, and that a large gang of them had been arrested by him, and committed for trial to the Sessions Court of Chittore, Captain Hervey

sent to that Court for the proceedings, and found that the men arrested on that occasion, and named in the margin above, were all members of the Sanseea fraternity, and many of them nearly related to some of the confessing prisoners employed under him, Captain Malcolm, and the other officers of the department. Well-grounded hopes were now entertained, that a combined and well and long sustained effort on the part of the officers of the department, supported and aided by Government and all its local authorities, might succeed in effectually putting down these associations of robbers by hereditary profession, in the south, as well as the north of India.

The following letters, which passed on the subject, are here given for facility of reference. In the mean time, Captain Malcolm kept up the pursuit, and secured many other leaders and leading members of the gangs, the greater part of whom confessed and recorded narratives of their lives, with an account of the Decoitees in which they had been

engaged, and the names of all those who had been associated with them in the perpetration; and as sufficient proof was found against each individual, his name was inserted in the general register, and authority issued for his capture. As each case of Decoitee was recorded, reference was made to the local authorities of the district, in which it was said to have taken place, to ascertain whether it had really taken place as described or not, and here we had an advantage not enjoyed by us in the suppression of the Thug associations. It was much easier to verify, by such a reference, a case of Decoitee, than a case of Thuggee—the one being committed with open violence, and well known to the whole neighbourhood, and generally reported and recorded at the time in the Magistrate's office, while the other was committed by stealth, and every possible precaution taken by the perpetrators to conceal all traces of it from the people, as well as from the local authorities. The victims were commonly travellers who lodged, cooked, and ate their food under the shade of trees by the road side, unperceived or unnoticed by the people of the neighbourhood, and whose homes and friends were many hundred miles distant from the scene of their murder; and it was always difficult, and often impossible, to find those friends, or to bring them to the spot, to identify the bodies and the property when found.

No. 1 of 1847.

TO CAPTAIN J. SLEEMAN,

Assistant Superintendent for the Suppression of Thuggee.

SIR,

I beg to forward, for transmission to the General Superintendent, in the accompanying packet, the following papers, containing the information I have been able to elicit from the members of the gang of Decoits, whose arrest I reported to you, on the 5th December last, and who have lately been forwarded to me by the Resident at Sattara.

No. 1. Containing the recognition of the several members of the gang.

No. 2. List of Decoit Jemadars, with their followers, of the Bhat or Kunjur caste, who have of late years carried on Decoitee in the Deccan, captured on information obtained from Captain Malcolm.

No. 3. A tabular return of Decoitees perpetrated in the Deccan within the last eight years, &c., &c.

No. 4. An abstract of depositions regarding Decoitees, noted in the preceding number, as given by the prisoners and other Decoit approvers.

2. In the preparation of these papers, I have received the greatest aid from Captain Hervey, Assistant to the General Superintendent at Belgaum, who is now on a visit at Hyderabad, and who kindly volunteered to assist me in examining the prisoners, and arranging the information to be obtained from them.

3. From the papers now forwarded, the General Superintendent will perceive, that a considerable number of Decoits are at large in the Deccan, and that there is every reason to believe, that further enquiries will place us in possession of the names of many others, either hitherto concealed by the approvers, or attached to the gangs acting under the orders of Gotkeea, Sawan, Jungee, and others, whose beat has of late been generally at a distance from that of the approvers with me. From the information lately received from Captain Elwall, at Patna, I have reason to believe, that the approvers with that officer are acquainted with these gangs, and from the information which they can probably furnish, I am in hopes that complete and accurate lists may be prepared, not only of the Bhat Jemadars and Decoits, who have lately fled to the Deccan, to avoid the pursuit carried on on the north of the Nerbudda, but also of those who derive their origin from the same source, but have been located in this part of the country for many years past.

4. The peculiar habits of these people, their personal appearance, and mode of life, render it easy, with the aid of the local authorities, to effect their apprehension, and with the depositions already before us, and the facility with which information regarding Decoitees can always be obtained, it will, I apprehend, be easy to convict them of the crimes with which they are charged. In regard to those that I may hercafter apprehend, who have been engaged in cases of Decoitee, which have formed the subject of trial in the department, or can be brought on the file of cases about to be brought forward, my best course will, I presume, be to forward them to Jubbulpoor, in the usual manner; and in the disposal of the remainder, I shall be guided, by the evidence I can obtain, in recommending their being made over for trial either to the Courts in the adjoining Company's Districts, or to the Court at Hyderabad, as the locality, in which the crimes with which they have been charged were perpetrated, may indicate.

I propose to lose no time in proceeding to the arrest of such of these Decoits as are at present located in the Nizam's territories; but as numbers of them will probably escape into the Company's

territories, under the Bombay Government, where, the General Superintendent will perceive, that several of their Decoitees have been perpetrated, I beg to suggest that the duty of arresting them, and bringing forward, for trial, the cases above alluded to, should be placed in the hands of Captain Hervey. I am not aware if the jurisdiction of the General Superintendent for the suppression of Decoitee at present extends to the Bombay territories; if it does not, and it is not competent to him on his own authority to delegate this task to this officer, the Bombay Government might be moved to authorise Captain Hervey, who is already vested with the powers of a Joint Magistrate, to undertake it.

The success of our proceedings in the Deccan against these Decoits, depends, I conceive, in a great measure on my having the co-operations of a person in the Bombay territories, whose time can in a great measure, be exclusively devoted to this work; and on these grounds alone, I have ventured to urge the proposition for the favorable consideration of the General Superintendent.

As the number of Decoitee approvers now with me, is too limited to admit of my detaching any parties, or supplying Captain Hervey, in the event of his being appointed to co-operate with me, I beg to solicit the sanction of the General Superintendent to my admitting a few of the most intelligent of the Decoits, now with me, as approvers. I am aware that the General Superintendent is averse to increasing the number of our approvers, but under the explanation I have offered above, and the assurance that I shall admit only such as are absolutely necessary, I trust that the permission I have solicited may meet with his approval.

(Signed) D. A. MALCOLM, *Captain,*
Extra Assist. Genl. Supt.

HYDERABAD,
The 2nd January, 1847.

No. 334 OF 1846.

TO CAPTAIN D. A. MALCOLM,
Extra Assistant Genl. Supt., Hyderabad.

SIR,

I have the honor, with reference to your letter of the 5th August last, to inform you, that the party of Nujeebs, under Duffadar Narain Singh, have returned from Sattara in charge of ten prisoners,

and eighteen women and eighteen children, with tattoos, &c. You will perceive from Mr. Gray's letter, copy of which is forwarded, that the articles you sent with them have not been recognised as part of the property stolen at Almulla. I have, however, requested Mr. Gray to take the depositions of any of the prisoners, who are willing to give information of any gang robbery, that may have taken place to their knowledge, in this zillah, as some of the women have, I understand, stated that they were concerned in a desperate gang robbery, that was committed last year in the town of Sholapoor, when three persons were murdered, and two of the prisoners confess to the Almulla robbery. Copies of any depositions that may be taken shall be forwarded to you; and when the attendance of the party is no longer requisite, a guard shall be added to their present strength, to enable them to reach Goolburgah in safety. I should be much obliged by your making arrangements for the relief of my police sepoy's at Goolburgah—their absence just at present is attended with much inconvenience; as, besides other prisoners, I have, in my charge, a party of prisoners detained at Sholapoor by orders of Government, and I am in daily expectation of being obliged to furnish a strong party of police to escort them out of this zillah.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. COLES,
Magistrate.

SHOLAPOOR,
3rd November, 1846.

No. 357.

TO CAPTAIN D. A. MALCOLM,
Assistant Resident, Hyderabad.

SIR,

With reference to my letter of the 2nd instant, No. 324, I have the honor to forward the copies of the depositions taken from the prisoners, brought into Sholapoor from Sattara, by a party of Nujeebs, under Narain Sing Duffadar.

I think there is no doubt of their being part of the gang who committed the robberies at Almulla and Sholapoor; but as they may deny what they have now stated, I beg to forward the deposition of Badjeet Khan, of Andoor, with the correspondence regarding an investigation

that took place some months after the Sholapoor robbery, relative to the release of a party of Bhats by the Patel of Mohung, who, Badjeet Khan states, were the identical persons engaged in the robbery, attended with murder, at Sholapoor. If confronted, he may perhaps be able to recognise some of them.

I should have been inclined to detain the present prisoners, for immediate committal to the Sessions Judge; but as you have stated their apprehension is likely to lead to the seizure of others, I have thought it best not to interfere with Mr. Gray's arrangement of sending them to you. I beg to forward copies of my letter to Captain Davidson, and of Mr. Gray's to me.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. COLES,
Magistrate.

SHOLAPOOR MAGISTRACY,
26th November, 1846.

No. 27 of 1846.

To G. COLES, ESQUIRE,
Magistrate at Sholapoor.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter, No. 33, dated the 2nd instant, with its accompaniment, and to inform you in reply, that I have taken the depositions of all the parties alluded to, eight of whom have unhesitatingly avowed their connexions with the gang robberies committed at Almulla and Sholapoor, on the 26th and 30th of June, last year; but without any similar result as regards the outrages at Byakoor on the 6th of the following month.

These depositions being all of rather a remarkable character, and sufficient in themselves, I should imagine, to ensure the conviction of the several deponents, I have thought it expedient to send the copies of them to you, instead of transmitting them direct to Captain Malcolm, as you may probably wish to make the eventual disposal of the prisoners a subject of special communication with that officer.

The Duffadar, in charge of the prisoners, has been directed to proceed with them to Hyderabad, via Goolburgah, reporting his arrival at

the latter place to the officer commanding, whose assistance, in relieving the additional escort furnished from Sholapoor, you will, I conclude, have requested in the mean time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. GRAY,
Assistant Magistrate.

SHOLAPOOR MAGISTRACY,
The 12th November, 1846.

No. 13 OF 1847.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY,

Judicial Department.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit, for the consideration of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council of Bombay, copies of the letters

- 1 Captain Malcolm to Captain Sleeman, 5th December, 1846, with enclosures.
- 2 The same to the same, dated 2nd January, 1847.
- 3 Captain Sleeman to Captain Malcolm, 1st March, 1847.
- 4 My letter to Captain Malcolm, dated 3rd April, 1847.
- 5 Enclosures in Captain Malcolm's letter.
- 1 Ghaseen's confessions.
- 2 List of Decoit Jemadars, with their followers.
- 3 List of Decoities committed in the Deccan.
- 4 Recognition of Decoits sent from Sattara to Hyderabad.

noted in the margin, on the subject of some Decoits by profession, who have been arrested and sent to Captain Malcolm, the 1st Assistant to the Resident at Hyderabad, by the Resident at Sattara.

Captain Malcolm solicits that Captain Hervey be especially authorized to co-operate with him in the arrest, and committal for trial to competent tribunals, of the members and leaders of these gangs of professional robbers, who are still at large; and His Honor in Council may perhaps think it likely to be of advantage to instruct the Magistrates of bordering districts to afford their aid, as opportunities may offer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. SLEEMAN,
Genl. Supt.

JHANSI,
The 12th April, 1847.

No. 1387 of 1847.

To LIEUT. COL. SLEEMAN,

*&c., &c., &c.,**Bombay Castle, the 14th May, 1847.*

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I am directed by the Hon'ble the Governor in Council, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 13, dated the 12th ultimo, with its enclosures, and to inform you, that agreeably to your request, Captain Hervey, Assistant for the suppression of Thuggee in this Presidency, has been directed to co-operate with Captain Malcolm, Assistant Resident at Hyderabad, in the arrest and committal of the Decoits referred to.

2. I am also desired to inform you, that the several Magistrates in the Deccan and Khandeish, have been directed to afford Captain Hervey their aid, as opportunities may offer.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. ESCOMBE,

Secy. to Government.

To CAPTAIN C. HERVEY,

Assistant Genl. Superintendent.

SIR,

I am directed by the Hon'ble the Governor in Council to transmit to you copy of a letter, No. 13, dated the 12th ultimo, from Colonel W. H. Sleeman, and of its enclosures; and to request that you will co-operate with Captain Malcolm, Assistant Resident at Hyderabad, and Extra Assistant General Superintendent for the suppression of Thuggee, in the arrest and committal of the Decoits referred to in this correspondence.

2. I am at the same time desired to inform you, that the Magistrates in the Deccan and Khandeish have been directed to afford your their aid, as opportunities may offer.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. ESCOMBE,

Secy. to Government.

Major General Fraser, in a letter dated the 21st September, 1847, expressed his readiness to undertake the duty of presiding over a Court, to be formed at Hyderabad, of respectable officers of His Highness the Nizam's Government, for the trial of all prisoners who may be committed before it for trial on a charge of Decoitee, or of having belonged to a gang of professional Decoits, by Captain Malcolm, or any other assistant of the department, in the same manner as the former Resident, Colonel Stewart, had presided at a similar Court for trial of Thugs ; and Captain Malcolm was directed to prepare for committal before such Court, all those against whom sufficient judicial proof could be found.

As the offenders of this class, whose evidence we required at the trial of their associates, were robbers and murderers by hereditary profession, it was clearly unsafe to release them on society after trial, since they would all certainly return to their old trade ; and it became necessary to provide for their safe keeping by a sentence of perpetual imprisonment, to be suspended over them, pending good behaviour, in whatever employment it might be found safe and suitable to provide for them. The Bombay Government was, therefore, moved by Captain Hervey, to permit the instructions of the Government of India, of August, 1837, with reference to Thug approvers, to be made applicable to those of the Sanseea and other Decoits by hereditary profession, throughout that Presidency. In a letter, dated the 14th of March 1848, from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Mr. Lumsden, it is stated, that the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut of that Presidency see no objections to making these instructions of the Government of India applicable to proceedings against Decoits by hereditary profession, as well as against Thugs. These instructions are as follows, and were made applicable in regard to Thugs throughout India ; but they have been slightly modified, in regard to Decoits, as will be seen by a reference to Chapter the 9th.

Instructions.

You are hereby authorized to offer mercy, in the name of the Government, to any Thug from whom you may have reason to expect useful information, on condition, that he makes a full and ingenuous confession.

The promise, which you are authorized to make, is not a promise of entire pardon. His Lordship in Council has before him such strong proofs, that offenders of this class are irreclaimable, that he cannot con-

sent to let any of them loose on society, however long the period of their confinement may have been, or however unexceptionable their demeanor during that confinement may have been, or the value of the information given by them. You are, therefore, distinctly to understand, that you are in no case, without a special permission from Government, to hold out to any Thug any hope that he will be ever set at liberty. The mercy, which you are authorized to promise, extends only to exemption from capital punishment and transportation, and to such indulgences in confinement, as may be compatible with the safe keeping of the prisoners ; every promise of this sort you may give, the Government will hold itself bound to perform, even though it should appear, that in giving such a promise, you have not exercised a sound discretion.

The promise which you are authorized to make, may be made either to persons who have been convicted, or to persons who have not been tried. In the former case, the punishment, will, on your report that the convict has made a confession which you consider as full and ingenuous, be commuted by Government, according to the engagements which you may have made.

An Act has been framed, providing that no person shall be incompetent to be a witness in any case, by reason of a conviction for any offence. When this Act shall be passed, a convicted Thug will be competent to give evidence against his accomplices.

In general, the promises which you make under the authority now conferred upon you, will be made for the purpose of obtaining information from Thugs, who have not yet been convicted. His Lordship in Council is of opinion, that every such case should be followed up by the regular trial, and conviction of the informers. Nothing short of a sentence pronounced by a Court of Justice, and recorded on the proceedings of that Court, can be sufficient ground for detaining any person in perpetual imprisonment. If a Thug approver, who has never been tried, were after ten or fifteen years of confinement, to demand his liberty, it might be exceedingly difficult to refuse his application. The evidence, on which he might have been convicted at the time of his seizure, may be no longer forthcoming. The public functionaries, who receive his confession may be dead, or may have left the country. It may be notorious, that he is lying in prison as a Thug ; but to detain in prison, for life, a man who has never been tried, and who demands a trial, merely on the ground that he is a notorious malefactor, is a course so objectionable, so utterly irreconcilable with all the most important general principles of criminal jurisprudence, that nothing but absolute necessity would induce His Lordship in Council to resort to it.

His Lordship in Council, therefore, directs, that in every case in which you may think fit to promise mercy, in the name of Government, to a Thug who has not been convicted, you will commit him for trial before the Sessions Judge, on the charge of having been guilty of the offence made punishable by Act XXX. of 1836; you will explain to him, that if he pleads guilty to that minor offence, he will not be put on his trial for any capital crime, which he may have committed as a Thug.

His conviction will, under such circumstances, be a matter of course. It will give scarcely any trouble to the Court by which he may be tried. It will, when the proposed Act before adverted to, shall be passed, leave him a competent witness, and he will be detained for life in confinement, under an authority which can never be questioned, and in a strictly regular manner.

(True copy)

(Signed)

W. H. MACNAGHTEN,

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

A brief sketch of the origin, family connection, intermarriage, mode of worship, division, and sub-division of tribes, caste, &c. &c., amongst the Khunjur or Sanseea tribe of Decoits, as gleaned from the narratives of Jemadars, Chukore and Bisram, two celebrated predatory leaders of that family.

This they are unable to trace back to any very remote period, and the only information they can give on the subject, is
 Origin and families. derived from their fathers and grand-fathers, who state, that their ancestors were two uterine brothers, by name Sains Mull and Mullanoor, who were inhabitants of the province of Marwar—the former was very illiterate, whilst the latter had so far the advantage of an education, as to be able to read and write. Sains Mull went to Bhugwan, (the Supreme Being) and obtained from him an order for the annual payment of a rupee and a quarter from every village in the world: he returned with this paper to his home, and showed it to his brother, Mullanoor, who, after reading it, was so enraged and envious at his good fortune, that he put it into his mouth and swallowed it. This occasioned a great feud between them, which ended in both repairing to Bhugwan,

who told them, that he could not renew the order, which had been thus made away with, but said to the elder brother, "hath men teekra, des mookla," that is to say, take to the life of a mendicant—the world is before you: and to the younger, he made the following observation, "jub tulk ghurrah men anāj, tub tulk doom ka raj, myheen to doom "ka ghur men boom," which means, that he and his descendants were to gain their livelihood by dancing and singing. From Sains Mull, the Sanseeas are descended, whilst the "Dooms" owe their origin to his brother, Mullanoor. Sains Mull had one son of his own, named Nirbhan, and he also adopted the son of a barber, who was called Baidhoo. The

Division, sub-division of tribes, &c.

sons and descendants of Nirbhan were styled "Ghote Malhas," and those of the barber's son "Ghote Kalkhurs." The former had twelve sons, viz.: Syhan, Palha, Supareea, Bhoora, Kooncha, Muncoohur, Khoonteea, Deeda, Khankeea, Poorun, Choocha, and Jugghut—from these the twelve "Khoorees" of "Malhas" took their names. The latter had eight sons, viz.: Bhooga, Ganghoo, Dayala, Dyha, Sahoo, Baichoo, Mooma, and Patheea—from these sons the eight "Khoorees" of "Kalkhurs" took their names.

Their first place of residence was in Marwar, where they have "Chutries" in the following villages—Paisagoon, Bhee Thanoola, Jae Morec, Angocha, Huraira, Sikranee, and Koorh. They never asked alms from any one except "Bhats," but eat what they got in their houses.

About two hundred years ago, a quarrel occurred between two of their ancestors, in which one of them killed his brother-in-law. The murdered man's wife complained to the Chief, who sent out a party to apprehend them, which made them leave that Province, and emigrate in different directions, some to the Dekhan, and others to Malwa, Guzerat, and Hindoostan, where they settled down. They occasionally earned something by dancing and singing; and whenever a force was in movement, attached themselves to it, and shared in whatever was going on in the shape of plunder and robbery, and when very hard pressed, they sometimes turned their hands to labour; but this was of very rare occurrence.

They marry their sons and daughters amongst those of their own tribe and calling; and never allow of intermarriage with any other tribe. If joined by any one of another caste, he is looked upon as a slave; (Ghoolam) and though in the habit of eating and drinking with them, and associated in all other customs and observances, they never allow the connection to extend so far as to give him any female of their tribe in marriage.

Marriage and intermarriage.

Before setting out on a Decoitee expedition, from half a bottle to two bottles of liquor (according to their means) are poured on the ground, as a libation to their ancestors; and, after returning from the perpetration of every Decoitee, Pooja is performed to Bhugwan, and offerings of sweetmeats, sugar, cakes, &c., made according to the success which has attended the undertaking, and the amount of booty that may have been obtained. Wherever there is any Saint (Peer) near the place selected for attack, they invariably propitiate and bespeak his good offices, by an offering of sugar or sweetmeats, from one rupee and a quarter up to ten rupees. Davey is also worshipped after each affair, and cakes, &c., placed at her shrine, to the extent of their means, and the success they may have met with. Khundee Row is also invoked, and an offering of gold promised, if the chains, locks, &c., yield quickly to the hatchets—the parties using which always pray for his aid before using their weapons—their offerings vary from one and one quarter “mashes” to the same quantity of “tolahs” in gold, which are afterwards distributed in charity to the poor and needy.

These are precisely the same as are observed by all other Hindoos. The body is wrapped in new cloth, and afterwards burned on a pile of wood. They have no fixed time of mourning, nor observing the usual “Kirya Kurrum”—(funeral obsequies) all depending on their means and avocations.

(Signed) A. HARRIS,
Asst. Genl. Supt. in Malwa.

INDORE,
ASST. GENL. SUPT'S. OFFICE,
The 7th April, 1846.

CHAPTER XIII.

There is a class of Mussulman Decoits in central and southern India, who call themselves Turks. They are not a numerous class, and they confine themselves chiefly, I believe, to stealing cattle. A small colony of this class was, up to the year 1830, located near Sohagpoor, in the Hoshungabad district, in the valley of the Nerbudda. During the cold and hot seasons, when a vast quantity of agricultural produce in cotton and grain was passing on bullocks, from this valley to the north, towards Bundelcund and Gwalior, and to the east towards Mirzapoor, the able bodied men of this colony, with some of their stoutest women, used to pass up along the border of the Vindeya range, through the districts of Bhopaul, Saugor, Dumoh, Nursingpoor, and Jubbulpoor, collect as they swept along all the Brinjara bullocks they could gather, and take them over the hills and jungles about the source of the Nerbudda river, into the valleys of the Ganges, Soan, and Mahanuddee rivers, and there dispose of them, and return with the money to their families, before the rains set in. As soon as they had found a party of Brinjaras, well situated for their purpose, and determined upon the attack, they sent on their women, and the least able and active of the men, to some place in the jungle, forty or fifty miles in advance, towards their ultimate destination. Giving them time to reach this distance without fatigue, they made the attack in the dusk of the evening, so that they might have, as much as possible, of the night before them, killed or wounded with spears, stones, and bludgeons, as many as they could of those who offered resistance, and took off the bullocks, leaving the goods they carried, or were to carry, on the ground.

Being expert drivers, they moved on with the bullocks very fast to the place to which they had sent on their women, and thence all moved on together to some deep jungle, into which they were not likely to be traced. There they left the cattle under the charge of a few of the party, who pretended to be graziers, and repeated their attacks till they had gathered as many as they thought it safe to take for the season, when they proceeded to dispose of them, as above stated, into the valleys of the Ganges and Mahanuddee. This colony had carried on this trade, from the time when we took possession of that part of the country in

1817 till 1830, without ever having had one of their members killed, wounded, or taken. I had then charge of the Jubbulpoor district; and having reason to suppose that this was the plan of proceeding, which had enabled them so long to escape the utmost vigilance of many able officers in charge of districts, from which they had annually taken off large droves of bullocks, I requested the chief landholders of the wild and jungly tracts, to the east of Jubbulpoor, to do all in their power to aid me in intercepting them. The best of all these landholders was Durecan Singh, whose estate of Sehpoora was not far from the source of the Nerbudda. In the hot season of 1830, he succeeded in intercepting a large party of these Turks, passing through the jungles of his estate towards the valley of the Ganges, with four or five hundred of these bullocks, collected in five or six attacks, such as I have described, every one of which had been attended with murder.

They pretended to have received the bullocks from others for the purpose of grazing them over these vast unpeopled pasture lands, to which thousands are sent during the hot season from the low lands, north, east, west, and south, to graze, as these lands are from two to four thousand feet above the level of the sea, and abound in fine grass, from the showers which fall almost every day from clouds brought up from the valley of the Nerbudda by the prevailing westerly winds, and wafted into the valley of the Ganges to the east below. The proprietors of the bullocks, in despair of ever finding any traces of them, had gone to their distant homes; and I was for some time in despair of finding judicial proof for their conviction. At last I found that there were two Hindoos among the party who did not belong to the gang, but had been associated with them for a few months for want of other employment. These two men I separated from the rest, and treated with great kindness. After talking with them every day for some time, they consented to tell me all they knew of their employers, the Turks. One of them, however, while recording his narrative, was taken violently and dangerously ill with a bowel complaint; and he told me that he could never recover, as the evil spirit of the Turks had got hold of him, and would worry him to death, for what he had told me of their secrets, as they were all powerful sorcerers, as well as Decoits. The other became alarmed, and had the first died, he would have told me nothing more. I had them taken the greatest possible care of; and by the kindness and able medical treatment of the Civil Surgeon, Doctor Spilsbury, the man was restored to health, and relieved from all his terrors. Reference was made to the local authorities of the districts in which the Decoitees had taken place, and the proprietors of the bullocks lost were invited from their homes and sent to me. They recognised their bullocks, and some other articles of property that had been taken off with them; and got

them all back. The gang was convicted, and sentenced to limited periods of imprisonment. Their families all came and established themselves in a colony on the side of a hill near the jail, earning their subsistence by cutting and selling wood and grass for the people of the town ; and when the periods of their sentence expired, the Decoits joined them, and all went off to the Bhopaul, Gwalior, and Nagpoor territories, whence they have ever since been carrying on the same trade, only taking the bullocks for sale to the south and west into the Nagpoor, Bhopaul, and Gwalior States, instead of the valleys of the Ganges and Mahanuddee.

In the eighteen years that have since elapsed, I am not aware of more than one instance, in which any members of this class have been seized and prosecuted to conviction, though they have committed many Decoitees of the same kind in our own districts, and those of the neighbouring Native Chiefs. Captain Hamilton, who has the civil charge of the Saugor district, by the activity and sagacity of a very able Police officer, in March 1848, secured four members of a gang of this class as they were retreating into Bhopaul with a drove of bullocks taken in a Decoitee in his district ; and not aware that they belonged to a class of Decoits by hereditary profession, he committed them for trial to the Sessions Court on the specific charge, instead of making them over to the Decoitee suppression department, to be committed on the general charge, under Act XXIV. of 1843. They have been all sentenced to nine years' imprisonment each. Under such a sentence there is little chance of their being made instrumental in the capture and conviction of any of their associates, and their arrest can produce little substantial benefit. Their gangs will not feel their temporary absence, or depredate the less, though they will take greater precautions to guard against similar accidents in future ; and when the period of their sentence expires, they will return to their associates and trade.

The want of roads for wheeled carriages from the rich valley of the Nerbudda to the south, west, and north, renders it necessary to carry the land produce, which there so much abounds, upon bullock's backs. The owners of these carrying bullocks are commonly Brinjaras, who prefer bye-paths through jungles to the high roads along cultivated plains, as grass, water, and wood are more abundant along such paths ; and when they cannot avoid going along the high roads over cultivated plains, they commonly encamp, as far as they can from villages and towns, upon the banks of the rivers and rivulets for the same reason, the greater facility of procuring the grass, wood, and water they require. They generally move in great bodies, but the number of men, compared with that of the bullocks, is very small ; and though brave, they are easily surprised and overpowered by the Decoit gangs, who are well armed, and provide them-

selves with stones instead of fire arms, which would give the alarm to the surrounding country. These large stones are formidable things, expertly thrown by strong men from the darkness around, upon a small party concentrated as the Brinjaras always are, within a small square formed of their bags of cotton, grain, and other produce. Had the establishment for the suppression of Decoitee been organised, as at present, in 1830, when the gang was arrested, as above stated, in the Jubbulpoor district, the whole of these associations of Decoits by hereditary profession would, probably, have been ere this put down ; but it is now formidable ; and its suppression must be a work of time and difficulty under the most favorable circumstances, and with the best possible disposition, on the part of our European Political officers at Native Courts, to urge those Courts to effectual co-operation. That disposition generally prevails, as has been sufficiently shown in this report, but it does not always prevail ; and where it does not, nothing can be done. If the Native Chief, or his influential officers and landholders, have the slightest reason to believe, from the lukewarmness of any such political functionary, that the Supreme Government is indifferent as to the success or otherwise of the measures adopted for the suppression of such associations of robbers and murderers, they will find a hundred ways to thwart and render fruitless the best efforts of the best officers of the department, and secure impunity to the most atrocious offenders. Such impunity, secured in one state, must prevent the greatest possible success in all others from resulting in any permanent good.

The Bereeas, who are, like the Domes, supposed to be descended from Mullanoor, the brother of Sains Mull, the great progenitor of the Sanseea family of Decoits, infest almost all parts of central and southern India, I believe. In central India, they are known by the name Bereeas alone, I believe ; but in southern India, they are called Kolhatees. They are thieves and robbers by hereditary profession, and every where lead a vagrant life like that of the Sanseeas, with whom they often unite in Decoitees. More commonly, however, they rob alone after their own fashion, sometimes with open violence, but more often with stealth. None of them have as yet recorded narratives of their lives, or given us any account of their economy or system of depredations ; and all that we know of them is gathered from incidental accounts, given of them by the Sanseeas and Bagrees.

In southern India, the Bagrees, *alias* Bowrees, are commonly known by the name of Takungurs ; and I conclude that they there speak the Guzeratee language, in the same manner as the rest of the fraternity do in all other parts of India, where they are located. Some of them in southern India are said to take occasionally, if not permanently,

to honest labour or service ; but as yet we know little of what they are, or what they do there.

Among those colonies of the great family of Bowrees, in central India, who are not considered generally to effect their robberies with open violence, some rob in a manner so nearly bordering upon it, that a very slight change of circumstance or position converts them into Decoits. Such are the Bowrees of Rajpootana, and some of the Bagrees of Malwa, described by Mr. Wilkinson, in the proceedings from Bhopaul given below. The Court of Bhopaul, on the 16th of May 1839, reports as follows to the Political Agent, Mr. L. Wilkinson.

Thakoor Esuree Singh, the Jageerdar of Ramgur, sent in a robber with his head cut off, and stated as follows—" My house having been " robbed in the night of all the valuables I had, I sent in the morning, " parties in all directions in pursuit. Exhausted by the heat of the day, " and very thirsty, I and the small party of four or five that I had with " me, went to drink at a small spring in a deep glen in the jungle. " Three armed men came up, and asked who I was—I said, we are " travellers. At this time one of my followers recognised, upon one of " the three, a shield and sword of the stolen property, and requested " permission to seize him. I saw and recognised these things myself; " but when I attempted to seize the robbers, they made off, calling out " for help. We followed, but soon saw six or seven other robbers coming, " well armed, to the aid of the three. As they approached, they fired " a volley upon us, and one of my party received a shot and fell dead. " My people rushed in upon them with their spears, thrust one through " the body, and he fell. They stood over the body in dread, lest he " should be taken, and lead to the discovery of the whole—and finding " him unable to run, they cut off his head, though still living ; but my " people pressed them so hard, that they were unable to carry it—but " they put fire upon the face and so defaced it, that it could not possibly " be recognised. They made good their retreat to the jungles in the " hills ; and I collected my followers to search for them, but in vain."

The head, though so much defaced, was shown to some Bagrees confined in the jail ; and they were promised a handsome reward, if they would find out to whom it belonged. After washing and looking at the face, they promised to let the Nawab know in a week. At the end of the week, they said they had discovered, and requested to have a party to secure the offenders ; saying, that the robbers were Bagrees, and most of them related to Khoshal Jemadar, with whom they resided. They, at the same time, stated that Bagrees were all brave men, and would most likely resist. As we thought it a duty incumbent upon

Government to seize such men, a party of twenty-five soldiers were sent off with an order to the Amil of Auchawur. The Amil joined the party with a strong force; and going to the spot before daylight, seized the robbers while yet asleep. Two of them, who had got ready and attempted to defend themselves, were wounded. All were brought in, with such articles of the stolen property as were found.

Heera and Kaleea, two of the Bagrees, confessed and stated—"We were ten Bagrees, engaged in the robbery of the Jageerdar. When attacked by him in the glen, we used our guns, and one of his men was killed—one of ours, named Roora, was wounded with a spear, he was, however, living, when Omureea, the grandson of Khoshal, and brother of Heera, deponent, cut off his head; but he could not manage to carry it off, and Seeama, put some dry straw upon his face and set fire to it with his powder flask. We then made off."

There is no doubt, that Khoshal is the leader of all the Bagree gangs of that neighbourhood, though he has long managed to conceal the circumstance. He has not fulfilled the promise, on which he received his pardon from the Political Agent. There is no relying upon these people—they carry on a little tillage for the sake of appearances; but their trade is robbery—no reliance can ever be placed on their promise—other cases will no doubt, after further investigation, be proved against this Jemadar, Khoshal—his relations are yet too much afraid of him to tell all they know. Only a few days before the arrest of this gang, they had committed a Decoitee on a merchant's house at Jhapur, in Ashta, five coss from their village, and several persons were wounded. If this man did his duty, none of these robberies would occur in his neighbourhood; and it is reasonable to conclude that he connives at them. Major Henley wished to relieve the people of this part of the country, from the evil of their presence; and he had hundreds of them expelled; but they are coming back and settling again. It would be very desirable to turn them all out again; but we shall act according to the wishes of the representative of the Governor General, to whom a copy of the depositions is to be sent.

Deposition of Khoshal Jemadar, Bagree, taken before the Court of Bhopaul.

"About two years ago, the Governor General's Agent granted me a pardon for all past offences, for giving him useful information regarding the Decoits of Auchawur, and promised me a provision from Government, if I traced and arrested all the others in the neighbourhood. I agreed to

do all this, and pledged myself never again to rob, or cause others to rob, or to screen or harbour robbers. I have not acted up to my pledge, let me be punished. I have caused the arrest of a few, and will do my best to cause that of others.

Question. You have caused the arrest of a few in Scindheea's territories; but you have, in the mean time, been screening all your relations and friends, about your residence at Ashta, in the Bhopaul territories—how is this?

Answer. I was not aware that my friends and relations had been guilty of robberies, or I should have seized and taken them to the sahib. When the troopers came and seized us all, I discovered that they had been guilty of these crimes. It is true, that about four or five months ago, Bheeka, my brother-in-law, Oukar, my nephew, Jussoo, Motee, and six or eight other Bagrees, went to Amurpoor, in Ashta, and robbed the house of a merchant, and returned in small parties of two and two with the booty—they remained in these small parties that they might not be discovered. Oukaree and others, came and concealed themselves in my village at Ramdasee; but the merchant's spies traced them, and reported to him that they were concealed by me. They became alarmed, and then Bheeka, the leader of the gang, got frightened and told me of the affair. I then got the whole of them, and after a serious admonition, I turned them all out of the village, with their stolen property. Bheeka gave the property to Teekundass Byragee—this was six weeks or two months ago. I had nothing to do with the robbery or the division of the spoil. I was wrong in not reporting the whole affair to the Political Agent, and deserve punishment.

On being admonished, the deponent acknowledges that other robberies took place, in spite of all his *good advice* to his relations and friends: all were against his will, and discovered after they had been effected.

Question. Do not you recollect that Major Henley collected together all the people of your class in the country, amounting to many hundreds; and, as incorrigible robbers, turned you all out of the country into Marwar, with a large body of horse and foot?

Answer. Yes, I remember very well, how they turned them all out; and how they all came back, I know not.

Question. How did you escape?

Answer. I made a solemn declaration, that I had never been engaged in any thing but tillage; and promised never to engage in any thing else.

Question. You were afterwards pardoned again by Mr. Wilkinson, under a similar solemn promise; how have you broken it, and what reliance can be placed in your word?

Answer. I never rob, but my relations are always robbing, and getting me into scrapes. I will now give the security of landholders for myself and all my relations, in whom I have confidence, if permitted to remain."

Deposition of Sewa and Seeda, Bagrees, confined by the Nawab of Bhopaul, taken before Mr. Wilkinson, 28th June, 1839.

"We are of the Bagree clan, and in our clan, there are nine castes. We are called between Ajmere and Joudpoor, (where we act as Chowkeedars) Bowrees; at Neemuch, Morgeea; in Mewar, also Bowreeras; in Malwa, Bagrees. We have never been towards Delhi and Agra, and know not what our clan is there called. Our nine castes are (1) Solunkee, (2) Chowhan, (3) Powar, (4) Charun, (5) Dhandhul, (6) Dhadhara, (7) Kolee, (8) Dhumurhura, (9) Dabee. We all eat, drink, and intermarry with each other. There was a famine in Marwar, and we left it in consequence, and came to Malwa. We have no people in our clan called Budhuks; but we have Bodharas." The lists of Budhuks sent by Major Sleeman from Moradabad are now read to them, and they are asked whether they know the people named.

"We know not the persons you have named to us, but the castes you have mentioned, as written opposite to them, correspond to the castes in which our clan is divided, as mentioned above; and they may perhaps be all called Budhuks in Hindoostan.

"We are seven here—

Sewa,	Solunkee.
Seeda,	Chowhan.
Oonkar,	Chowhan.
Roopa,	Chowhan.
Jubba,	Solunkee.
Dewa,	Charun.

"We all worship the Kalka Devee, and are followers of hers. Her temple is at Kujurla, and we there sacrifice buffaloes to her. All classes of Hindoos go to make offerings to her. We have been thieves for many

generations, [here they enumerated many cases of thieving expeditions, under different leaders]—Jutarun and Neemuch are places three coss distant from each other ; they are thirty coss east from Joudpoor, and thirty north of Palee, and there are a few families of our clan in every village about those places. There were Gopaul, the son of Asa, Jemadar, and Mihrban, the son of Nursing, Jemadar.”

The colonies of Bowrees, who are located in the Meerut, Mozuffernuggur, Seharanpoor, and other districts of the upper Dooab and Delhi territories, under the patronymic name of Bowrees, are the same in origin, caste, and language, as those already described, who practice Decoitee under the name of Budhuks, Bagrees, Bagorras, Seear Khowas, &c., &c. They follow the camps of Governors General, Commanders-in-Chief, and other great personages, European and Native, with whose contemplated movements they manage to keep themselves acquainted by means of their emissaries. But they prefer the camps of Native Chiefs, to those of high European functionaries, because Native Chiefs have much more of readily convertible property with them, in shawls, gold and silver ornaments, and jewels, without which they hardly ever travel ; while Europeans seldom take with them, on their journeys, any thing valuable that they can conveniently dispense with. A detachment from one or other of these colonies, will be found with almost every force that takes the field in Upper India. They assume all manner of disguises ; and are perhaps the most expert robbers of camps, and cutters into tents, to be found in the world. They are well known to all the natives, and to many of the European police authorities of their districts, as inveterate and irreclaimable robbers by profession, who go out on distant expeditions, and bring home every year great wealth, which they share liberally with the landholders, on whose estates they are located, and the native police officers of the neighbourhood.

If they find any Magistrate disposed to bring the high pressure system to bear upon them, by demanding exorbitant security for their future good behaviour, they accept one or other of the numerous invitations which they generally have, from the police and landed interests of neighbouring districts, and walk over the boundary of his jurisdiction into that of another. If they happen to have no pre-engagements, they go off in a body in search of other resting places ; and unhappily they will not long search for them in vain ; for it is a melancholy fact, confirmed by history, and the experience of every man, who has been long in India, that the holders of the land have seldom considered their interests, and those of the Government, the same. On the contrary, they commonly consider them as very much opposed to each other ; and seldom feel any moral obligation to aid the Government for the time being, in the arrest and convic-

tion of offenders, and the discharge of its other duties towards the community. The profit they get from the booty of thieves and robbers of all kinds, located upon their estates, is commonly considered to be of much more importance to them, than that which they could expect from the greater security to life and property, which might result from their punishment and suppression. The profit and advantage of the one, they would have to share with millions, and their portion would be but very small ; while the profit and advantage of the other, they share with but few, and their portion is large. In Native States, they often turn out *en masse*, and prevent the arrest of robbers and murderers of all classes. In our districts they dare not do this, but they go into our Courts of Justice, and perjure themselves to secure their release, and tender their security for their future good behaviour. The Bowrees of this class do not come properly under my cognizance, because their robberies are not perpetrated with open violence, and the Magistrates of districts do not like to have any thing to do with them, because they have little chance of ever getting them ultimately convicted of specific offences ; and the proportion, which acquittals bear to convictions, in their periodical returns, is commonly considered, by their superiors, as the best criterion from which to judge of a Magistrate's efficiency.

In April 1837, a party of nine Bowrees, from one of the estates near the small fort of Sahseram, held in the district of Mozuffernugur by the family of Nirput Sing, who had made a large fortune by the share he got from this class of offenders, proceeded towards Lahore. Five remained at Puteeala on the road, and four crossed the Sutledge, and robbed the tent of one of the officers of the Maharajah Runjeet Sing, of a box of jewels, valued at twenty three thousand rupees. They were pursued, and two of them taken : the other two escaped, and carried home the box. After a sound drubbing, the two captured men confessed, and offered to guide the pursuers to the place where the jewels would be found. They first took the pursuing party to Puteeala, and pointed out their five associates, who were secured. The two men had taken the box by a less frequented road, and could not be found. The party, which consisted of two officers and twelve troopers, now entered the British territory, crossed the Jumna, and reached Karana, fifteen miles from Sahseram, where they found the Thanadar, or head Native Police officer, of Kundāla, within whose jurisdiction the robbers resided. He had come to this place in search of an outlaw, Nunda. One of the prisoners told the Thanadar, that he had no doubt, that his two companions had taken the box home to their bivouac, near the fort of Sahseram, and the Thanadar promised to go with the party, as soon as he had dined, and have a diligent search made for it. It took, however, a long time for him to prepare and eat his dinner ; and, in the mean time, he is supposed to have sent on some one to give Nirput Sing's

friends intimation of their approach. On reaching the place, they found the bivouac deserted; and the landholders all declared that they had been so for a long time.

The party remained at Sahseram, waiting for further instructions from home, and searching for the thieves and property, from the 17th April to the 9th of May; when the Magistrate of the district, exasperated against them by the reports of the Thanadar, ordered them all to be seized, and sent prisoners to him as disturbers of the public peace. They had seen too clearly how the matter stood between the police, the landholders, and the Bowrees, and being plain spoken soldiers, they took no pains to conceal their impressions from the Thanadar, who reported to the Magistrate that they were a disorderly set of men, who talked of invading his district with an army of Seiks, and certainly not leaving the place till after the rains, unless they got the box. On the 15th of May, Captain Wade, the Political Agent, with the Seiks at Loodheeana, moved by the Maharajah's Durbar, addressed a letter to the Magistrate at Kurnaul, supposing that the little fort of Sahseram was situated within his jurisdiction. He sent the letter to the Magistrate of Mozuffernugur, who did not think himself bound to act in the matter, without a letter direct to himself from the Political Agent. The Thanadar had made these unfortunate Seiks appear to be such turbulent and dangerous characters, that the Magistrate kept them under strict surveillance at a distance, and never condescended to hold any personal communion with them. They were never, on any occasion, permitted to speak to him; but Geesa Singh, the senior officer of the party, was at last permitted to see the Magistrate, who read his petition, praying a reply for his master, or for the Political Agent. Nothing, however, was done; and in despair Geesa Singh and his party left Mozuffernugur early in June, and returned to Loodheeana, leaving the police, landholders, and Bowrees, to divide their master's jewels between them. When I first got a narrative of this affair from one of the Bowrees themselves, I sent for the proceedings from the Magistrate's Court, and found it to be substantially correct. The sad symptoms of that aberration of mind, which afterwards carried this young Magistrate to the grave, were, I believe, first manifested in these proceedings—he had really been led by the Thanadar to believe that these Seiks were turbulent characters, who had been sent on, for no other purpose than to create a quarrel between the two States, and that the story of the box had been invented merely to serve their purpose.

In May 1839, Captain Mills, one of my Assistants, who had charge of our operations in the districts of the Upper Doab and Delhi territory, arrested Dhokul Singh, a leader of one of these gangs of Bowree pick-pockets, who gave the following account of their economy and system of proceeding. He was sent to me, and remained with me some

time. All that he stated before Captain Mills, he confirmed before me, and gave me other narratives of expeditions, equally amusing and instructive. He was sent back by me to Captain Mills, made over to the Magistrate of one of the districts, and ultimately released, to return to his trade, as no judicial proof could be found of any specific offence against him, or his associates. It was ascertained that the robberies described had really taken place in the camp of the Nagpoor Rajah ; but the parties robbed were exceedingly averse to enter into particulars, lest they might be summoned to give evidence against the confessing prisoner and his associates, in one of our distant Courts.

TO MAJOR W. H. SLEEMAN,

Commissioner, Moradabad.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward you the confession of a man of the Bowree caste, relative to certain men of this district, who are in the habit of proceeding on expeditions to all parts of the country, and returning with considerable booty.

2. These men have, for some time past, established themselves in the Meerut, Saharunpoor, and Mozuffernugur districts ; but owing to their seldom or never committing any depredation in the districts they reside in, it would be almost impossible to obtain legal proof to warrant their apprehension. They might certainly be taken up as being men of bad characters, without any ostensible means of gaining a livelihood, and security taken from them if convicted ; but I should doubt the possibility of collecting sufficient evidence to do so, in our ordinary tribunals, owing to their being protected by the Zumeendars of the villages, who require them to confine their operations to other districts.

3. From the enquiries I have instituted into the character of these men, I am not disposed to think they commit Decoitee, though they may possibly do so, when deprived of the means of obtaining their booty by other means.

4. Should you wish the deponent to be sent to you, after perusing the accompanying confession, I shall lose no time in complying with your wishes.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

C. E. MILLS, *Lieut.*,
Assistant General Superintendent.

MEERUT,
6th July, 1839.

Deposition of Dhokul Singh, 7th May, 1839.

"I have no fixed residence—we live where we find it most safe
 "and agreeable. The Bowree caste was originally Rajpoot, and our
 "ancestors came from Marwar. We have seven gotes or clans—(1) Powar,
 "(2) Solunkee, (3) Dubas, *alias* Dabee, (4) Chowhan, (5) Tunwur, (6)
 "Dhundhura, *alias* Dhandhul or Colee, (7) Gordhee. We have also the
 "Charan clan, making eight. Two or three centuries ago, when the Em-
 "peror of Delhi attacked the fortress of Chitore, and besieged it for twelve
 "years for the sake of the Princess Pudmune, the country became de-
 "solate; and, reduced to great distress, we were obliged to emigrate in
 "search of subsistence and employment, and disperse—some went to
 "one country, and some to another. Those who came into the Delhi
 "territory were called Bowrees, those who went to the Gwalior terri-
 "tories were called Mogeas and Bagorras. To the eastward, they were
 "called Budhuks; and in Malwa, Habooras: what they have been called
 "in other parts I know not. We are not people of yesterday—we are
 "of ancient and illustrious descent. When the demon Rawun took
 "away the wife of the god Ram, and Ram followed him to recover her,
 "men of all castes went to fight for him in the holy cause; among the
 "rest, a leader of the Bowrees, whose name was Pardhee, and whose
 "occupation was hunting. When Ram vanquished his enemy and re-
 "covered Seeta, he asked Pardhee, what he could do for him—"grant,"
 "said Pardhee, "that I may attend your Majesty, mount guard, and
 "hunt in the intervals of leisure, and I shall have all that my heart
 "wishes." The god granted his request, and his occupation has de-
 "scended down to us. If any Prince happens to have an enemy that he
 "wishes to have made away with, he sends for some of our tribe, and
 "says, "go and bring such or such a one's head." We go, steal into
 "his sleeping apartments, and take off the person's head without
 "any other person knowing any thing about it. If the Prince wanted,
 "not the head of his enemy, but the gold tassels of the bed on which he
 "lay asleep, we brought them to him. In consequence of our skill in
 "these matters, we were held every where in high esteem; and we
 "served Princes, and had never occasion to labour at tillage. This was
 "before the emigration and dispersion of the tribe. We, who came
 "to the Delhi territory, and were called Bowrees, took to the trade of
 "thieving. Princes still employed them to take off the heads of their
 "enemies, and rob them of their valuables. At present the Bowrees
 "confine themselves almost exclusively to robbing tents: they do not
 "steal cattle, or cut into houses; but they will rob a cart on the highway
 "occasionally—any other trade than robbery they never take to. They
 "reside in or near villages under the protection of the landholders; and
 "while out for long periods at their vocation, they leave their wives and
 "children under their care. They give them the means of subsistence,

“ and for these advances, we are often indebted to them three or four
 “ hundred rupees by the time we return.

“ They put on the disguise of Byragees, Gosseins, and other classes
 “ of religious mendicants, and go to Hyderabad, Sehor, Surat, Bombay,
 “ Benares, and Allahabad, and bring back stolen goods to the value
 “ of many thousand rupees every year—they merely steal, however—
 “ never commit Decoitee. These articles we give to our friends the
 “ landholders and shopkeepers of villages—they give us sixty rupees for
 “ what is worth a hundred rupees or more ; and out of this sixty, they
 “ deduct the advances made to our wives and children. We are obliged,
 “ at the same time, to give handsome offerings to the Thanadars and
 “ other police officers of our neighbourhood ; and if we were to omit these
 “ offerings to either the landholders or the police, they would very soon
 “ get us seized, or turned out of their villages. We reside in the Meerut
 “ and Mozuffernugur districts, and have in our interests the Thanadars
 “ and other police officers of Bhagput, Moradnugur, and Burote, in the
 “ Meerut district—Kundala, in Mozuffernugur—and Ghuronda, in the
 “ Delhi territory—and some of us reside in the Bolundshuhur district,
 “ where we conciliate the police officers and landholders in the same
 “ manner.

“ We resided most in the Saharunpoor district, but after the robbery
 “ at Dehra, our residence there was made inconvenient. Our chief resi-
 “ dences at present are :

<i>Village.</i>	<i>Pergunnah.</i>	<i>District.</i>	
Bhurdole	Moradnugur .	Meerut	Seven under Natha Jemadar.
Rutole	Baghput ..	Ditto	Under Bheena, twenty-two men.
Bahkole	Ditto	Ditto	Under Wuree Mul and Sureejeet and Sou- dagur, twenty-three men.
Birae	Ditto	Ditto	Under Hurchunder, a good many men.
Khundora ..	Ditto	Ditto	Under Goolab, son of Rutuna, eighteen men.
Kytwaree	Surdhana ..	Ditto	Under Kunheya and Saeka, four or five men.
Panchuree	Gawlee	Ditto	Under Kulunder and myself, five or six men.
(Forgotten) ..	Binoulee ..	Ditto	Under Burwa and his son Purnab, five men.
Sumolee	Burote	Ditto	Under Ghusecta, ten or twelve men.
Sohara	Ditto	Ditto	Under Chand, <i>alias</i> Joula, ten or twelve men.
Lohara	Ditto	Ditto	Under Anta, son of Raboo, and his sons Dorjun and Gholab, twenty men.

<i>Village.</i>	<i>Pergunnah.</i>	<i>District.</i>	
Kheera	Kandala ..	Mozuffernugur	Under Bonta, eight men.
(Not known) ..	Ditto	Ditto	Second Bonta, son of Mulkee, seven or eight men.
Hoseynpoor ..	Bordhana ..	Meerut	Under Kama and Kuleean, sons of Soree Chund, seven or eight men.
(Not recollected)	Binolee	Ditto	Under Soorja, a good many.
Near Dunkole ..	Baghat	Ditto	Under Pertaub, five men.
Kundal	Ditto	Bolundshuhur	Under Bojoree, five or six men—who brought booty from Lahore.
„	„	„	Under Bhuktee Ram, son of Cheyna, five or six men.
Tilukwa	Dasra	Bolundshuhur	Under Nathoo Sootuteea and Ruteeram, five or six men.
„	„	„	Under Tora, Cheyna, and Summa, five or six men also.
„	„	„	Under Sehreea, son of Johureea, ten or twelve men.
„	„	„	In districts about Paneeput, and Kurnal, and Hansee, Loba, son of Mungoo, Munktee, son of Dooree, Gama, Kuleean, Jumma, and Hursookha, Jemadars, have each ten or twelve good men.

“ The man who enters the tent, we call Kumaw, and the one who stands outside, we call Peetwal. The former hands out the things to the latter, and passes them on to a third person. There is always a leader with the party. Out of a hundred, the Kumaw gets fifteen laid aside for him, and every other person engaged gets two ; the rest are divided when we get home ; and the landholders and police get their portions. All our wives and children get shares. The Jemadar always takes the part of the Kumaw, and enters the tent, as that requires the highest qualifications. He gets his fifteen per cent. for the united duties, but still shares equally with the others when he returns home. If he demands more, there is a great uproar made about it, and he is obliged to desist.

“ When we are about to set out on our expeditions, we get a loan of twenty or thirty rupees from the landholders, or merchants of the place ; and two days before starting, we sacrifice a goat, and make burnt offerings to the goddess Davey—sometimes to her of the fiery furnace of *Jowala* in the Himmaleh Hills, or to her of *Kalka* ; and sometimes to our old tutelary god of Chitore—we present sweetmeats, and vow unwearied devotions, or pooja, if we return successful. After all this, we take the auspices thus—we go in the evening into the jungle, and there in silence expect the call. If the partridge or jackal call on the

“ left, we set out without further ceremony—the bark of the fox even will
 “ do. If any of them call on the right, we return home, and try again
 “ the day following—as soon as we get a good omen, we set out—if we
 “ take it in the morning, it must be before sunrise—and the fox, par-
 “ tridge, and jackal, must call on the right to be good. If a deer cross
 “ from the left to the right, it is a good omen. We have a couplet on this
 “ subject, signifying that if the crow and the deer cross from the left to
 “ the right, and the snake from right to left, and the blue jay from left
 “ to right, even the wealth that has gone from thee shall come back.

“ We all of us carry knives to cut into tents, but these knives we
 “ bury in the ground, except while we are on the move. When the British
 “ Army marched to invade Cabul, we robbed a tent at Kheera, and took
 “ off a good deal of property, which we made over to the landholders.
 “ Some Government servants came to make search for it, but the land-
 “ holders turned them out of the village. But on the road they met some
 “ of our women, and on searching them found some spoons in their petti-
 “ coats. A great fuss was made about it, and a proclamation was issued,
 “ offering a reward for the apprehension of Hurchunda, who resided in
 “ the village of Bisar, in the Pergunnah of Kundala, in Mozuffernugur.
 “ There are about a thousand men of the Bowree tribe in the districts of
 “ Delhi, Meerut, and Bolundshehur, all thieves by hereditary profession ;
 “ and they are all fostered by the landholders, on whose estates they
 “ reside, and with whom they share their booty. They do nothing but
 “ thieve, and confine thieving almost exclusively to tents. Whenever they
 “ happen to quarrel with the landholder, they change their residence
 “ without difficulty. Our women do nothing but look after their children,
 “ and enjoy what we bring home for them. We never take them with us.

“ The Mogeas and Bagoorras, who reside in Malwa, and on the
 “ Chumbul river, commit Decoitee, Burglary, and Theft—they stick at
 “ nothing—but the Budhuks confine themselves to Decoitee. They go
 “ in kafilas (large parties)—sometimes as carriers of Ganges water,
 “ sometimes as Brahmins with the sacred string about their necks—the
 “ Haboorras commit theft. The Gojurs call us Geedceas, and the Jats
 “ call us Bowrees. Geedeea is merely a local name of our tribe—there
 “ is no distinct class of people of that name. The Sanseeas are not
 “ of our tribe—they are a distinct class—they are thieves, but seldom
 “ ascend to Decoitee. The Kunjurs are all thieves—they cut grass and
 “ make choppers, and bivouac in suburbs under huts of sirkee, (long
 “ grass) but always thieve ; they are to be found every where in great
 “ numbers. The Nutts dance, beat drums, and amuse people with their
 “ tricks, but they are at the same time all thieves. Those who go about
 “ with snakes, are all thieves—we, like the Budhuks, have a language
 “ different from that of other people.

" When we heard lately that the Rajah of Nagpoor was to come on
 " a pilgrimage, through Jubbulpoor to Allahabad, four gangs of Bow-
 " rees went to meet him, in the disguise of Hindoo religious mendicants.
 " We lodged generally at places a mile or two from his camp—all day
 " we were wandering about the camp, reconnoitering the tents, which at
 " night we robbed. Sewaram had seven men—Bouta seven—the second
 " Bouta, whose brother, Hazaree, had been hung at Ambala, had six
 " men—Gama four, but one of his four men was killed on their way
 " down at Bhandere, by some village watchman, in his attempt to steal
 " some ghee. We went on with the camp from Allahabad to Guya, and
 " returned in four months to Meerut. At Benares, we cut into the tent
 " of a Puthan in the Rajah's suite, and got his turban, and a necklace
 " worth six hundred rupees—the man awoke, and we had not time to
 " take more. At Guya, we lodged at the Seetakoond, and robbed a
 " Mahratta, of the Rajah's train, of two hundred Nagpoor rupees, a red
 " shawl, two turbans, and two red cloaks, and some pieces of mulmul.
 " Between Chutterkote and Allahabad, we robbed a tent of some money,
 " silver ornaments, three shawls, a bidree hookah, and other things.
 " There were many other thefts committed; and we all returned safe,
 " with the booty collected, to our homes.

" The red shawl I gave to Dhoona, the landholder of Bhudolee, in
 " Moradnugur, in Meerut. I gave him also two turbans. The bidree
 " hookah was given to the brother-in-law of Jumeet Chowdree, of Khera
 " —the other shawls were all given to the landholders in payment
 " of advances. There were a number of silver ornaments, which were
 " afterwards melted and sold—all these things were lodged with the
 " goldsmith of Bhudolee and Seoram; but when they found that I had
 " been seized and taken to Meerut, they made away with them, lest I
 " might get a party sent to seize them. Dhoona established the gangs
 " in the jungly parts of his estate, where they still are. This expedition
 " took place during the last cold season, and we returned only a few
 " months ago. The Bowrees committed several thefts in the Governor
 " General's camp, when the army was assembling for Cabul; and they
 " follow all armies, and the camps of all lords and other great men."

In Guzerat, there is a class of thieves, by profession, called Dhuno-
 jee Brahmins, who are very like the Bowrees of the Meerut, Mozuffer-
 nugur, and Saharanpoor districts, and Delhi territories, though not
 so numerous, being estimated at only five hundred families. They had
 long been protected and fostered by the Guicowar Rajah of Baroda, who
 derived from them an annual revenue of about three thousand rupees, and
 seemed always to regard them as a very legitimate source of income.
 But as they extended their depredations into the Honorable Company's
 territories, and those of their allies from Guzerat east, to Benares and

Oude ; south to the Carnatic ; north to the Himmaleh Mountains ; and west to the Indus ; the Government of Bombay thought that they had a right to call upon this Rajah to withdraw from them his support. Instructions were conveyed to its representative, the Resident at Baroda, in January 1833, to remonstrate with the Guicowar Chief on the subject ; but His Highness treated all such remonstrances with philosophical indifference for five years and a half, when the Bombay Government again called the attention of the Resident to the subject ; and on enquiry, he found that they were still protected and fostered, and still continued to pay the tax to the Rajah.

A representation was, on the 20th of November 1838, made by the Government of Bombay, who estimated them at five hundred families, to the Governor General of India, who directed that His Highness should be required to relinquish the tax, and effect the expulsion of the offenders. The subject was again brought to the notice of the Government of Bombay, by the Magistrate of Guzerat, Mr. Fawcett, on the 25th of June 1844, and submitted for the consideration of the Supreme Government, on the 29th of July. Being commanded to submit my opinion on the subject, I stated in my letter to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, on the 30th of August, " that till such thieves by profession " should be declared liable, on conviction on the general charge, to a " sentence of imprisonment for life, or for such limited period, as, to the " Judge conducting the trial, might seem proper, society could never " hope to be relieved from their depredations." The circumstances having been submitted for the consideration of the Honorable the Court of Directors, it was stated in their despatch of the 1st of October 1847, " that the Court concurred in the opinion, that the numerous classes " of persons, who sally out from villages belonging to petty Native Chiefs, " and commit depredations in distant places, should be punishable, " wherever they are seized, with stolen property upon them, or in the " act of stealing ; since the local authorities of the place, where they " reside, commonly share in the spoils, and can never be expected to " punish the criminals ; and the Court directed that the subject should " be taken into consideration in the Legislative Department." An enactment for this purpose is now under the consideration of the Legislative Council of India.

Gangs of this class of offenders are often arrested in the distant districts, where they commit their depredations, with the stolen property upon them, and on their way home through the British territories which intervene ; but they have generally been released with their ill-gotten wealth, under the persuasion, that if sent back to the districts whence they

brought it, no sufficient evidence for their conviction would be forthcoming ; and if sent to the local authorities of the Native States, or districts in which they resided, the local authorities would be either unable or unwilling to punish them. They are not arrested at all, in one season in ten that they are out ; and the chances are more than ten to one against their ultimate conviction when arrested ; so that they may be considered to enjoy perfect impunity, so far as our Courts are concerned, in the present state of the law, which requires conviction for a specific offence, to justify their punishment ; and they are, in consequence, increasing with the increase of wealth, and the disposition to display it, arising from the protection which industry and property now every where enjoy, under our paramount rule.

Magistrates of districts, by whom such gangs have been arrested, have frequently sent them back under guards, to be disposed of by the Native Chiefs or Magistrates, in whose districts they are supposed to reside. They have often been thus sent, at great cost, for subsistence and escorts, from Calcutta to Bundelcund and the Gwalior territories, a distance of seven or eight hundred miles ; and when they arrive, it is often found that they are not really inhabitants of the districts which they have mentioned as their homes, or amenable to the authorities to whom they are sent. Gangs of this class go every year even from the Punjab into Candeish and Guzerat. A gang of them were seized by Mr. Vansittart, at Loodheeana in 1841, on their return from these two provinces, with several thousand rupees worth of stolen property upon them. They acknowledged that they were thieves by profession, and had stolen the property, found upon them, in Guzerat and Candeish. They were made over to me to be disposed of, by Mr. George Clerk, the Governor General's Agent ; but after an investigation, in which they repeated their confession, they were returned to Loodheeana, as not coming properly under the cognizance of the Decoitee Department ; and all were, I believe, ultimately released, because it was hopeless to send them down all the way to Candeish and Guzerat, where they had stolen the property, with a view to their trial for the specific offence. Though the Guicowar Rajah may himself have been found willing to withdraw his protection, and to forbear levying the tax upon the Dhunjee Brahmins, his landed and official aristocracy have, no doubt, continued the one and taken the other, under the persuasion, that if expelled from the lands of that State, they will find other Princes and their aristocracies ready to receive them on the same terms ; and that their expulsion would remove without diminishing the evil. They are, I fear, all still located in Guzerat ; and all still carry on the same lucrative and hereditary trade. Our only hope is in a law that shall enable the local authorities, in whose districts they may be arrested, to punish them.

On the estates of Duteea, Orcha, and Chundeyree, in Bundelcund, there is a similar and still more numerous class of thieves, by hereditary profession, called Sanoreea Brahmins. They are said to occupy exclusively six or eight villages in each of these estates, and to be mixed up with other people in a great many more. They take a range no less extensive than the Dhunjee Brahmins in Guzerat, in their annual excursions; but their favorite fields are Bengal and Southern India. The Sanoreea Brahmins never steal at *night*, or between sunset and sunrise. No prospect of wealth, it is said, could tempt them to infringe this rule, handed down to them from their ancestors; but there is hardly any thing too insignificant for them to take during the day time, or from sunrise to sunset. They have no exclusive language, and but few slang terms; but they converse in signs, more expertly perhaps than any other people in the world. This is rendered necessary by the rule, which prescribes that they shall rob only in the day time. They all pay a tax to the landholders on whose estates they reside, and to the influential officers of the Chiefs, if not to the Chiefs themselves. "How," say they, "should we be suffered to remain any where a day, did we not pay a high rate of taxes to the landholders, and officers of the Government?" The person who takes the property is almost always a young boy trained to the trade. He hands it over to a strong fleet man, who is looking on at a short distance; and he conveys it to a third person on the road leading to the secure retreat where the gang waits for them. They move with all possible rapidity; and have relays in proportion to the weight of the article, and the distance that the chances of pursuit may render it necessary for them to have it taken at the first burst, which is sometimes (when the police is vigilant and the article valuable) a hundred miles or more.

In 1834, a Native Commissioned officer of the 29th Regiment Native Infantry, then stationed at Jubbulpoor, was robbed of his gold necklace, worth about a hundred and fifty rupees, while bathing at Seonee, half-way between Jubbulpoor and Nagpoor. I came to Jubbulpoor some six months after this, and the Native officer came to me, with a note from the European officer commanding his company, to say, that he was a poor man, who had been lately promoted to his commission, and could hardly afford to sustain such a loss, and to request, that I would endeavour to get it for him. I had not the charge of the district, but suspecting, from the man's narrative, that it had been taken by a party of the Duteea men, on their way back from the south of India, I sent to the jail to know whether any men from that quarter had been taken up of late, and found that one was working on the road, some twenty miles off. He had been caught stealing in the town, and sentenced to a year's labour. I sent for him, and he told me, that he belonged to the gang who

had taken the poor Jemadar's necklace—that they were all seized, after leaving Jubbulpoor, as they passed through Huttah, on their return to Bundelcund, and were, he believed, still there in the jail.

I sent to the officer in charge of that district, and ascertained that they had been seized as stated; and that the gold necklace was among the articles found upon them, but that they had all been released, for want of proof, a fortnight before my letter reached him, and allowed to take the necklace and all their other property with them. Having ascertained the village, in which their chief leaders resided, I sent the Jemadar, with a polite note, to the Rajah of Duteea, to say, that he was a good soldier and a *Brahmin*, and that I hoped he would order the necklace to be given back. To prevent mistakes, the Jemadar took with him some one to point out, on his way to the Prince, the house of the principal leader—part of the necklace was found upon him, and the Rajah made good the rest.

While at Saugor, the year before, I got a note one morning from the officer commanding a treasure escort from Nursingpoor, which had arrived the day before, stating that the old Subadar of his Company had that morning been robbed of his gold necklace, valued at one hundred and fifty rupees; and requesting that I would assist him in recovering it. The old Subadar brought the note, and stated that he had undressed at the brook, near the cantonments, and placed the necklace, with his clothes, about twenty yards from the place where he bathed—that on returning to his clothes, he could not find the necklace; and the only person he saw near the place was a young lad, who was sauntering in the mangoe grove close by. This lad he had taken and brought with him; and I found, after a little conversation with him, that he belonged to the Sanoreea Brahmins of Bundelcund. As the old Subadar had not seen the boy take the necklace, or even approach the clothes, I told him that we could do nothing with him, and he must take him back to camp, and question him in his own way. The boy, as I expected, became alarmed, and told me, that if I would not send him back with the angry old Subadar, he would do any thing I pleased. I bid him tell me how he had managed to secure the necklace; and he told me, that while the Subadar turned his back upon his clothes in prayer, he had taken it up, and made it over to one of the men of his party; and that it must have been taken to their bivouac, which was in a grove about three miles from the cantonments. I sent off a few police men, who secured the whole party, but could not find any thing upon them. Seeing some signs of a hole having been freshly made under one of the trees, they dug up the fresh earth, and discovered the necklace, which the old man was delighted to recover so easily. All the little gang was convicted, and

sentenced to limited imprisonment; and much valuable information, regarding the character, residence, and habits of this class of offenders, was obtained from them and recorded in the Magistrate's office at Saugor. It led to the arrest of other gangs of the same class, on their return, through that district, from Southern India.

There is a very extensive association of offenders of this class in the districts of Cawnpoor and Futtehpoor, between the Ganges and Jumna, called Oudeeas. They are said to occupy, almost exclusively, the following twelve villages, six in Cawnpoor, and six in Futtehpoor :

<i>In Cawnpoor.</i>	<i>In Futtehpoor.</i>
1. Puthar	1. Bhutta
2. Kuthar	2. Tarpoor
3. Lalpoor	3. Fureedpoor
4. Khurbuneea	4. Jhunna
5. Sarae	5. Surae
6. Kutara.	6. Lalkhan's village.

This association is said to be divided into two classes, one called Sundeshas, and the other Soorpurhas. The Sundeshas are said to go very great distances, commonly in the disguise of Byragees, and to return, in from six to twelve months, with great wealth acquired by stealing; but I am not well acquainted with their *modus operandi*. They confine themselves chiefly to the precious metals, pearls, jewels, &c. &c., and if they occasionally steal other things, they convert them, as soon as possible, into money and jewels, as more easily carried, and less likely to be recognised. The Soorpurhas are said to carry on their depredations, chiefly by coining and disposing of base rupees, in the districts through which they pass, in their annual excursions. These Oudeeas, like all other professional robbers, pay the landholders, on whose estates they reside, very liberally; and, in return, these landholders protect and screen them; and, when necessary, procure the false evidence, or pledges of security required for their release from confinement. The Police officers, around the villages they occupy, are of course, conciliated in the same manner; but it would be useless for them to molest such offenders in the present state of the law, for they could not possibly obtain evidence for their conviction, for a specific robbery or theft, either in the district where arrested, or in those very distant districts, where the property found upon them may have been stolen. It would be almost impossible to find out the persons from whom the property has been taken; and still more so to make them state the circumstances of the case, when they knew that such a disclosure would involve

the necessity of coming to our Courts to give evidence. If the offenders were sent five or six hundred miles to the Courts of the districts, in which they got the property, all the evidence to their arrest, to the search, and discovery of the property, to their character, &c. &c., would have to be sent with them; and they would have to pass, in going and coming, at unfavorable seasons of the year, through the deadly belts of jungle that skirt the Vindeya and Sathpoo ranges of hills in the Nerbudda valley, so that many lives would have to be sacrificed to secure the possible conviction of perhaps only one thief.

There are many other classes of thieves, by hereditary profession, in India. The Hābooras, who reside chiefly in the upper Dooab and Delhi territory; the Geedeeas, who reside in the same parts, a class of Musulmans, who reside in the Punjab and protected Seik States, and call themselves Cashmeeries, Affghans, or any thing else most likely to suit their purposes.

A class of people called Thoree Naeks, who are professional and hereditary offenders, abound in the Powar States of Dhur and Dehwas, in Malwa, and in the Marwar, Mewar, and Harowtee States of Rajpootana. They are said to be called Erees in Marwar, and Sancherees in Harowtee. They esteem themselves a grade in caste above the Mogheeas; and, like the Budhuks, borrow the sub-divisions subsisting among Rajpoots, as Bhartee, Rathore, Powar, &c. &c. Mr. L. Wilkinson, the Political Agent at Bhopaul, secured the arrest of a gang of this class in September 1839, immediately after they had been engaged in a serious Decoitee, and made them over, to be disposed of, to the Resident at Indore, Mr. Bax. He describes them as hereditary Thieves and Decoits. In his letter to the Resident, dated the 21st September 1839, he states, "that this gang of offenders was seized chiefly in the Dehwas territory, "where they seem to have found a safe shelter for the last twenty or "thirty years—that the two Powar Governments, on the decline of their "fortunes, seem to have given frequent employment to men of this class, "finding it cheaper to maintain large bodies of such men, who demanded "little pay, and subsisted themselves by plunder, than small bodies of "any other class of soldiers; that they contented themselves with very "little pay, as they found the simple name and privilege of a Sipahsee "sufficient recompense, since they enabled them to carry on their trade "of robbery and murder with greater security and freedom."

This class of offenders contented themselves generally with thieving; and only occasionally engaged in Decoitee, or robbery, with open violence. They moved about in gangs or colonies as religious mendi-

cants, and assumed the disguise of Byragees, Gosseins, and Jogees ; and visited, I believe, all parts of India. When Mr. D. F. McLeod had charge of our duties, in the pursuit after Thugs, over Rajpootana, he had grounds to believe that the Thoree Naeks were every where robbers, and sometimes murderers ; but I know not precisely what is understood by the people to constitute a *Thoree Naek*, as distinguished from a simple Naek, in Malwa, Marwar, and Mewar, whence all seem to come. The Naeks in those parts are said to worship a deceased Rajpoot Prince, whom they all call Pāboojee, and consider to be the most potent of divinities, and to have been, in his earthly state, a very distinguished member of the "imperial trade." They often associate together for the purpose of robbery ; but, individually, serve as police and village watchmen. It is remarkable, that all over India, the members of the class, from which the village watchmen are taken, should all be thieves and robbers, when not employed in that capacity. The village watchmen are selected from the particular class, because they are known to be thieves ; and they seem to continue to be thieves, that they may secure a monopoly of the office.

The Moogeeas, in Malwa and Rajpootana, are a still more extensive class of policemen and robbers than the Naeks. They practice Decoitee upon a large scale in all parts of Rajpootana and Malwa. The same may be said of the Meenas, with this difference, that the Meenas are a much more numerous class, and a much less proportion of them are robbers by profession. The Meenas are said to occupy some twenty-seven villages in Shekawatee, and thirty-two about Katpootlee and Jeeloo Putan, between Alwar and Rewaree, in our Delhi territory. These villages lie chiefly along under a range of hills that extend south west from Tijāra, through Alwar, into the Jeypoor territory, and are bounded on one side by the Delhi territory, belonging to the Honorable Company, on another by Tijāra, a third by Alwar, a fourth by Jeypoor, and a fifth by the Jhujjur Nawab's estate. Some of the villages are situated within the boundaries of each of those estates ; and those among the inhabitants, who practice Decoitee, find no want of patrons among the local authorities. The principal leader of the Decoits of the thirty-two villages, was in 1839, Girdharee Jemadar of Katpootlee, who every year led his gang into southern India, and used to bring back great wealth. The gangs of the twenty-seven villages of Shekawatee, were kept under by the Brigade under Major Foster, whose head quarters were at Joonjonoo ; but they will be found very troublesome when that Brigade is removed, or rendered less efficient.

These Meenas do not, any of them, like the Budhuks, follow Decoitee, as an exclusive and hereditary profession ; or consider themselves as having been predestined to that trade ; nor have they, that I am aware

of any exclusive language to separate them from the rest of the community. All are, for a part of the year, occupied in tillage ; and the greater part of the Meenas are so employed all the year. Lieutenant Briggs, one of my most efficient Assistants in the suppression of Thuggee, in the Rajpootana States, at the request of Colonel Alves, the Agent of the Governor General over these States, made enquiries into the character and habits of these Meenas, and embodied the result in a report, which will be found among the Appendices. He was told that the Meenas were divided into two classes, the "Poorana Bashies," or old inhabitants, who were considered to be the Aborigines of the soil, and so industrious and respectable in character, that they expelled from their society any member found guilty of dishonest practices. Many of the highest offices of the States were held by them ; and from their character and numbers, they were one of the most influential classes in Rajpootana. The second class, the "Nowa Bashies," or new inhabitants, were, on the contrary, so addicted to crime and violence, that any member of their class, who manifested a disposition to earn his livelihood by honest industry, was denounced as a degenerate "nāmurd," or coward. They cultivated some land for their subsistence, but depended chiefly upon the booty acquired by plunder and murder. They were, like the "Poorana Bashies," a numerous class ; and so strong from numbers and clan feelings, that the local authorities seldom dared to attempt to coerce them. The worst of this class were said to reside between Sohur or Tohur, a dependency of Ajmeer, and Rana in the Boondee territory ; and the jungles between Jehagpoor, in Mewar, and Thana, were said to be filled with detached villages occupied by them.

In our districts, between the Jumna and Ganges, and north of the Ganges, there are some gangs of thieves, who go by different names, according to the places where they are located—Jogeas, Purdesees, &c. &c., and move every season into distant districts, where they, by various modes, insinuate themselves into the confidence of families, till they can rob them of all their silver ornaments and utensils. They commonly ascertain, from the villages around, what families have lost members, and the character, age, and appearance of the missing members. The person of the gang, who most resembles one of these missing members, enters the family as the prodigal and repentant son or husband ; and he soon contrives to get into its confidence, and secure all the valuables, with which the gang makes off some dark night. Or, in the character of religious mendicants, deeply skilled in the art of converting copper into silver, and silver into gold, they contrive to get into the confidence of the females of the family, who, by degrees, make over to them, during the absence of their husbands, all their silver ornaments, to be converted into gold. Gold is of course at first given, for small portions of silver, as having been

so commuted; but by degrees they get all the silver, and then make off with it. I have sometimes known a dozen families deprived of all their silver ornaments, in one night, by a single gang of this class, in a large town. All had been insinuating themselves into the confidence of different families at the same time; and as secrecy was enjoined upon the females of each family as part of the spell, one family never knew what was being done in the other, till the gang decamped. It was necessary that all should be robbed at the same time, as the discovery of the fraud in one family would put all the families of a town on their guard for many years, and it is only after long intervals that they attempt the same fraud in the same town. The exceeding credulity of the people, and particularly of the female part, facilitates such frauds. Not a single person in any town, either Hindoo or Mussulman, doubts the ability of holy mendicants to change copper into silver, and silver into gold; and I have known many instances of their passing themselves off as lost members of families for many months, and even years, unsuspected by wives or mothers. In India, members of families are more often lost than in Europe, at present, as great numbers, of all ages, go off every year on distant pilgrimages, through sickly jungles, and amidst eternal snows, in which vast numbers perish in going, or returning, without leaving any sign by which their relatives can trace them. It was, probably, the same in Europe, while the rage for pilgrimages to the Holy Land prevailed; and the same frauds may then have prevailed over Christendom.

CHAPTER XIV.

The Jubbulpoor School of Industry originated with Captain Charles Brown, in the year 1838. The necessity of providing some means, by which the sons of Thug approvers might learn trades, which they would follow from inclination when they grew up, had been long felt, and Captain Brown was made acquainted with my wishes on the subject. The Thugs themselves would have wished their sons to be brought up to their old trade of murder, under the supposed religious sanctions, had there been any fair prospect of their following it with a moderate chance of escape; but as they saw no relaxation, or prospect of any, in the efforts of Government, effectually to put down the system, they were afraid that the risk of transportation or imprisonment for life was too great; and after a time they acquiesced in our wishes. Those who had sons, with more or less reluctance, by degrees, consented to labour themselves, in order to encourage their sons to do the same; and under the instructions of a few masons, carpenters, and blacksmiths, hired for the purpose, or selected from among the ordinary convicts in jail, many of them soon learnt these trades, and enabled Captain Brown, at a small cost, to erect work shops and store-rooms.

On the 21st of February 1838, I submitted to Government my proposal for this undertaking, with a copy of Captain Brown's letter of the 4th January 1838; and its sanction was conveyed in Mr. Secretary Macnaghten's reply of the 10th of March—copies of these letters are here given for facility of reference.

TO MAJOR W. H. SLEEMAN,

General Superintendent.

SIR,

With reference to a letter addressed by you to Captain Reynolds, from Simlah, dated 7th March 1837, I have much pleasure in informing you, that I have succeeded in establishing the manufacture of the undermentioned articles by the approvers of this place.

Lac dye, sealing-wax, blankets, sutringees, large and small dhotees for prisoners, cloth for pantaloons of a very fine quality, newar tape of sorts, cotton-wicks for lamps, stockings, gloves, towels, &c.

With a view of giving you some idea of the progress I have made, I beg your kind attention to the following observations.

1st. The old approvers in general are averse to any employment ; and in many cases have taunted those who have come forward as willing to make themselves useful. These people I have kept as much at a distance as possible, and encouraged the others by various little indulgences ; by which means, I have now got more candidates for employment, than I can, at present, with my slender means, find work for.

2nd. The children, with the exception of a very few, are kept back by their parents ; and I have been averse to using any force with them, till I received your sanction, and my plans assumed an appearance of success, which I have every reason to think they now do. I would, therefore, with due deference, suggest that I should be authorized to use gentle force in the case of the parents refusing to allow their children to work ; and that, in all such cases, any allowance granted for the support of the family of an approver, in addition to what he is himself entitled to, should cease ; and that, should they still persist, the approver be reduced to one and a half anna per diem, and finally removed from his family for such time as might be thought proper.

3rd. I do not anticipate any great resistance, but should I find any, would wish to have it in my power to carry by gentle force, what I could not accomplish by fair means. The leading characters in the opposition, would be a few of the old approvers, who are too cunning to come to any open manifestations of their dislike to my plans ; and when they find themselves in the field unsupported, they would see their folly, and eventually give way, though with a bad grace.

4th. The greatest difficulty I have had to contend with, has been the dislike they have (on a par with all natives) to learn any thing new. I first commenced my operations with prisoners, and have now, I am happy to say, in a great measure, overcome all their prejudices on this point.

5th. In addition to the articles of manufacture before mentioned, I have allowed the approvers to make bricks, and to dispose of them to the best advantage ; and in many cases have assisted them by getting the officers in cantonments to purchase them. These people are all very

fond of money ; and when they see that they are to share in the profits of the manufacture, will cheerfully join in the work, which would not, of course, be too severely imposed upon them.

6th. The approvers are treated in the same manner as when you left Jubbulpoor, *i. e.*, are confined in the buildings adjacent to the jail (lock-ups), and are only allowed to visit their families at meals. Those employed at the manufactory, which is at present in my compound, are not confined during the day. To this, in a great measure, I attribute the increase of candidates for employment ; and on no account do I allow any of them to be absent from the lock-up, except at meals, or at their work in the manufactory.

7th. The allowance of the approvers, in all cases, where they show an inclination to make themselves useful, will, I trust, be continued to them as heretofore ; and I propose that half of the profits of the sale of the articles manufactured, should be paid to those employed, and the other half carried to the credit of Government.

8th. As I have not a shadow of doubt as to my success, I trust you will do me the favor to obtain for me an advance of one thousand rupees, to be laid out in erecting a manufactory, paying artificers employed to instruct in the various branches of manufacture, and purchasing tools and materials. Hitherto I have carried on every thing at my own expense, and have expended, from my private funds, a few hundred rupees in forwarding this object. I have now in store the produce of the manufactured articles, that, when sold, will realize a sum sufficient to cover the greater part of the amount laid out by me ; and I have every reason to believe that the one thousand rupees, requested as an advance, would, in due course, be paid back from the profits of the establishment. Several of the approvers have requested that their children should be allowed, at the public expense, a master to teach them to read and write. However desirable this might, at first sight, appear to be, I do not see that any particular advantage would be gained to the present generation, as none of them would be employed, if known to be the offspring of Thugs ; and with the little learning they might pick up, they would become dissatisfied with their condition. I do not think it would be safe to remove them (the children) to any part of the country, unless under the eye of the police, and this of itself would ensure their being looked down upon, and in many cases ill-treated.

In conclusion, I beg to state that I shall be highly gratified if the steps which I have taken meet with your approbation ; and I trust you

will kindly point out to me any erroneous views I may have taken of the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. BROWN,
Assist. Genl. Superintendent.

JUBBULPOOR,
ASSIST. GENL. SUPT'S. OFFICE,
4th January, 1838.

*Extract of a letter from Major W. H. Sleeman, to Captain Reynolds,
dated 7th March, 1837.*

“ I am of opinion that they should never be relieved from the
“ strict surveillance or confinement in which they are now employed;
“ and that the only way in which they can ever be safely employed is
“ where surveillance can be provided, such as a manufacture requiring
“ the application of manual labour in concentrated numbers.

“ If we could establish any kind of manufactory for them, or find
“ any one willing to receive them, it would be the best mode of provid-
“ ing for them.”

(True Extract)

(Signed) C. BROWN,
Assist. Genl. Superintendent.

No. 80.

TO LIEUTENANT CHARLES BROWN,
Assistant General Superintendent,

Jubbulpoor.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th ultimo. I should have replied to it earlier, but was anxious first to witness the work you have succeeded in establishing. Having now done so, I beg to offer you my warmest thanks for your exertions, and best congratulations on their successful result.

In anticipation of the sanction of Government, I shall, upon my own responsibility, order the advance of one thousand rupees, to enable you to carry on the works, the principal to be refunded, without interest, in three years. The profits will, of course, be added to the principal ; but I am aware of the heavy loss already sustained in the fire, by which the workhouse was lately consumed with a good deal of accumulated materials.

Should any approver object to allow his son to be employed in this manufactory, he should be forthwith deprived of the privilege of visiting his family, and given to understand that the children he already has, will be sent away to some distant asylum, as soon as one can be found willing to receive them, and his wife deprived of any allowance she may now receive, and be told to go where she pleases. In such a case, he will himself be reduced to the allowance of an ordinary prisoner.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. H. SLEEMAN,

General Superintendent.

JUBBULPOOR,

GENL. SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

The 19th February, 1838.

No. 90 OF 1838.

To W. H. MACNAGHTEN, ESQUIRE,

Secretary to the Government of India.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward, for submission to the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India, the copy of a letter from Captain Brown, under date the 4th ultimo, together with that of my reply of this day's date.

2nd. It has always been my anxious wish to have established at Jubbulpoor, a manufactory to give honest and safe employment to the approvers, here concentrated from all parts of India, and to afford their sons the means of learning useful trades, which they would follow through life, and which would be likely to deprive them of all inclination to follow the dreadful trade of their forefathers.

3rd. The most extraordinary trait in the characters of these people is not this, that they can look back upon all the murders that they have perpetrated, without any feelings of remorse, but that they can look forward to the children, whom they love as tenderly as any men in the world can, following the same trade of murder, or being united in marriage to men who follow that trade, without any such feelings of remorse. When I have asked them, how they could cherish those children through infancy and childhood, under the determination to make them murderers, or to marry them to murderers, without any such feelings, the only observation they have ever made was, that formerly there was no danger of their ever being hung or transported, but that now they would rather they should learn some less dangerous trade.

4th. Accustomed as they are, from their childhood, to hear their fathers and their friends talk, with pleasure and pride, of the expeditions in which they have been engaged, there is always in their bosoms a desire to follow the same course of life, unless it can be counteracted by some other less dangerous and more attractive. To me it has, therefore, been always an object to invite their fathers to work in some honest and respectable trade, at the same time we teach the children. Seeing, as they do, the little chance that a Thug now has of escaping punishment, the fathers, who could never otherwise be made, voluntarily, to engage in any manual labour, will now do so, to afford an example to their sons, and induce them to learn a trade, by which they may be enabled honestly to subsist themselves, and to aid their mothers and sisters, when they depend upon them.

5th. For the articles, which Lieutenant Brown here teaches them to manufacture, there will be always an effectual demand, because they are suited to the immediate wants of the place and its vicinity, and are of a quality which the people have hitherto been obliged to bring from remote districts. From personal observation, I feel satisfied that the object, we have so long had in view, will be attained, if Mr. Brown be encouraged to continue his exertions, by the support of Government, in the loan he proposes; and I have, in consequence, ventured to anticipate its sanction by the advance of one thousand rupees, to be repaid in three years, without interest, in order to enable Mr. Brown to erect the additional workshops and store-rooms required, before the hot winds set in. Hitherto he has employed his own private funds only; and one of his factories has been lately burnt down by accident.

6th. I have seen all the people at work, and examined the articles made by them, and confess that his success has been beyond my hopes. I have found the approvers, of all castes, working together cheerfully in

the same manufactory; and though he had a good deal of difficulty to contend with, at first, in the secret taunts of the older men of high caste and influence, which made the more timid ashamed of their new avocations, he has now nearly surmounted it all; and I already find, among the most forward in the work, many who were, at first, the most opposed to it.

7th. The profits arising from the work will be carried to the account of Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. SLEEMAN,
General Superintendent.

JUBBULPOOR,
21st February, 1838.

In the 11th and 12th paragraphs of my letter of the 26th February 1839, I bring the subject again under the consideration of Government, as follows:

Para. 11. There is one point of much interest and importance that has caused, and still causes me much anxiety. This is the manufactory, in which are employed the Thug approvers from all parts of India, (and their children) who are concentrated at Jubbulpoor, as their services under the district officers can be dispensed with. The great object is to teach the children some trade that they shall willingly follow through life; and that must be a trade that will yield them something more than the wages of common uninstructed labour. In order that their sons may cheerfully learn such trades, all the old men labour hard every day at the manufactory formed for them, by Lieutenant Brown; but he is absent for five months in the year, and these people require, as an overseer, a good practical European, who has been brought up as an overseer in England, who thoroughly understands mechanics, and the use of simple machinery, such as we can afford them the use of, and is required to make articles in every-day demand.

Para. 12. Such a man, of a very superior sort, I find, from the Artillery at Dum Dum, in a Mr. Hayton, and I venture to request that I may be permitted to offer him a salary of one hundred and fifty rupees a month. There are now above six hundred of these men sentenced to imprisonment for life in different parts of India, men whose

ancestors have been murderers for many generations, and whose children would, for many generations, in all probability, have become the same, had they not been withdrawn from the scene of their crimes. These men must all, by degrees, be concentrated at Jubbulpoor, where, under judicious management, they will soon, by their labour, be made to return to Government, not only the outlay for their education and that of their children in useful trades, but that for their daily subsistence.

I had hopes of being able to obtain the services of a Mr. Hayton, at the rate of salary, one hundred and fifty rupees a month, proposed by me and sanctioned by Government; but it was necessary that he should purchase his discharge from the Honorable Company's service, and forfeit all claims to pension after one year, and the salary was not considered equivalent to these sacrifices. In a letter dated the 5th December 1839, I solicited an increase to the rate; but in a reply dated the 9th idem, was told that Government could not consent to give more.

At last a suitable person was found in Mr. Williams, a Patrol in the Delhi Customs, who consented to give up a situation of a higher salary, with a fair prospect of rising in his department, to undertake this more congenial duty, on condition, that a house was provided for him, over and above the pay of one hundred and fifty rupees a month. I had a garden at Jubbulpoor, and in this I caused a small neat cottage to be built for him, at small cost, with the aid of the prisoners, who had now become expert at building, under Captain Brown's supervision. His appointment was sanctioned in Mr. Secretary Maddock's letter dated the 2nd March 1840, in reply to mine dated the 3rd of February.

The officers of the department for the suppression of Thuggee, in all parts of India, retained with them such only of their approvers whose services were indispensable; all others were sent, as their services could be dispensed with, to Jubbulpoor—the great central point, where they were to be kept from evil doing, and made useful, if possible. Those who had served well, were permitted to have their wives, mothers, and children, in a small walled village near the jail, built for the purpose, and to see them as often as was thought safe and consistent with the object in view. Some of the older men who had served long and faithfully, and had too many members of their family around them to think of making any attempts at escape, were permitted to sleep in this village, that they might assist in preserving order in the little community. By degrees these elders gave security for a certain number of others, who had deserved well by a long course of good conduct, and had their families in this village; and who pledged themselves, in the penalty of forfeit-

ing all claims to further indulgence, and returning to fetters and close confinement, that they would not abuse the privilege, or make any attempt at escape.

I should mention, that in the early part of our proceedings, many arrested Thugs tendered their services for the pursuit of their associates, in the hope of finding opportunities of escape, after receiving a conditional pardon for all past offences. When any of them absconded, they were invariably pursued with all available means; and when hunted down, left to undergo the full penalties of the law. Not a man escaped such pursuit long; and, in consequence, few were, after a time, found hardy enough to attempt it. The impression thus produced enabled us to grant such indulgences as seemed indispensable to a cheerful performance of the duties we required from them. The narratives of such pursuits—led by the male or female friends of those who had been seized and sentenced, chiefly from information given by the fugitives, over many hundred miles of country, and through the territories of various Native Chiefs—were, many of them, exceedingly interesting. These people knew the homes of the most remote relations or friends of the fugitives; and, in one disguise or another, led the pursuing party to every one of them, till they had gratified their revenge by their recapture.

Captain Brown at first contented himself with the manufacture of trifling articles in every day demand, giving to the prisoners small extra allowances out of the profits. A loan was obtained from Government to defray the cost of the buildings, and the purchase of raw materials for manufacture. The prisoners received from Government sufficient for food and clothing, and the extra allowance went to their families in the village, who eked out their little means by spinning, or employing their children in gathering and selling grass and wood in the town of Jubbulpoor, which contains a population of about twenty-four thousand persons. The profits arising from the sale of the articles manufactured were, at first, very small, and had to be divided among great numbers; and it required great tact and energy, on the part of Captain Brown and his assistant, Mr. Williams, to encourage the desponding, and subdue the turbulent spirits they had to deal with.

Persons were obtained from Mirzapoor to teach them the art of weaving carpets, and others from Futtehgur to teach them that of cutting out and making tents: in the former, the boys were employed, and in the latter the men; and the factory now began to thrive. Both carpets and tents found a ready sale; and men and boys began to think their share of the profits a valuable acquisition. The boys were delighted to feel that they had now learnt trades that would, with common industry,

ensure them a comfortable subsistence for life; and the men to see, that their sons were no longer in danger of taking to the old trade, and running the risk of being sent to the black water. The women too, and their daughters, shared in the happy change of feeling; for they too could add to the general stock of the family comforts by spinning the thread required for the tents, since the cloth was now wove and stamped at the factory. The poles were turned and painted, the ropes and all other materials required for the tents were also prepared by the prisoners.

Major Ramsay succeeded Captain Brown in the charge of the factory in January 1842, and Captain J. Sleeman succeeded Major Ramsay in 1845; Mr. Williams has remained the able Overseer; and the factory has continued to succeed beyond my most sanguine hopes. I visited it in the beginning of 1843, in the end of 1844, and for the last time in January 1848. At first I found the Thugs anxious to gratify the curiosity of the young officers, who accompanied me, in talking of their old trade, and its scenes and excitements, and in showing them how they had performed its various operations. At the second visit, I found that they were not anxious to do all this, though willing when encouraged; but at the last visit, I found that they were averse to answer any questions on the subject, and quite ashamed to look back upon the events and incidents of their past lives. They no longer talked among themselves of the scenes of early days. Their sons, who had never seen any of these scenes and incidents, were now become able, industrious, well-behaved, and well-dressed young men, who felt no interest in what their fathers could tell them of a trade so abhorrent to the rest of mankind, and were evidently ashamed to see their fathers asked any questions about it by the European visitors. All had learnt to read and write, as well as to work honestly for their bread at respectable trades; and were proud at the thought of their independent condition. Mr. Williams, to amuse them in their leisure hours, had fitted up a little theatre, and got some English after-pieces translated into the native language. The elder sons of the Thugs were taught parts in these after-pieces, and performed them exceedingly well. The "Forty Thieves" was performed, for the amusement of the gentlemen and ladies, at the station, during my last visit.

During the year 1847, the sum of four thousand nine hundred and fifty-three rupees had been paid in wages to the Thug approvers and their sons, for work done at the factory, and two thousand three hundred and ninety-six to their wives, for thread spun by them in their houses in the village. Over and above this, their wives and daughters carry a deal of fine thread to the town for sale, as it is only the coarse thread that is required at the factory for cloth for tents. Besides the sons of Thugs

employed within the factory, many others earn their bread by working at home in the village, or town, by conveying the goods of the factory to market, or to the places whence the orders come, or entering into service as sipahees, burkundazes, or domestics, all earning from four to six rupees a month.

There were five hundred and forty-three Thugs, and their sons, employed in working up raw materials into finished work, in tents, carpets, &c. in the end of 1847; and three hundred and seven in different duties about the factory and station, highly useful, but not adding to the value in exchange of the finished work, and return of profits—some as guards, some as brick-makers and bricklayers, &c. in forming new and repairing old workshops, lines, public buildings—others employed in keeping the factory, jail, hospital, school-house, infirmary, drains, tanks, &c. clean, all having some little allowance from the profits of the factory to encourage exertion. During 1847, there had been manufactured and despatched from the factory one hundred and thirty-one tents of different sizes; three thousand three hundred and twenty-four yards of Kidderminster carpeting; forty-six woollen carpets of sizes, besides large quantities of table cloths, towels, &c. of good quality; plaids, checks, &c., altogether realizing the sum of 35,230-13-8 Company's Rupees. Among the outlays, must be included the wages of teachers of the different trades, from distant parts, which is now every day diminishing, while the returns are increasing.

Some of the most expert and industrious young men, who have been in the factory from boyhood, and were never engaged in Thuggee, have now permission to set up independent establishments for themselves in the town of Jubbulpoor, with the privilege of selling the produce of their labour to whom they please; and as land produce, and all the materials they require, are, at all times, cheap in the valley of the Nerbudda, the articles they turn out are likely to find a ready sale, in spite of the disadvantage of being so far removed from any navigable river. If the plan succeeds, as I hope it will, they will add much to the industry and population of the town, while they will form the foundation of a large manufacturing community, out of people who must, but for the energetic measures adopted by a benevolent Government for the suppression of this terrible evil, have been murderers by hereditary profession, under the horrible delusion that the Deity sanctioned and predestined their trade. I will here give a copy of my last report to Government on the result of this experiment, dated the 3rd February 1848, with a table of the persons then employed at the factory, drawn up for me, during my stay at Jubbulpoor, by Mr. Williams. The conditionally pardoned offenders

of the different classes of Decoits by hereditary profession, for whom no suitable employment can be found in any of our police or other public establishment, will, as their services can be dispensed with by the officers under whom they are now employed, be concentrated in the same manner at the Jubbulpoor factory. Many of them are too old and infirm for active service in police or other establishments, and many, from their conduct and habits, undeserving of it.

To H. M. ELLIOT, ESQUIRE,

Secretary to Government of India,

FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit, for submission to the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council, an abstract memorandum of the accounts of the Jubbulpoor School of Industry, from the 1st of January to the 31st of December 1847, with a memorandum of the outstanding debts, amounting to 14,511-11-7½ on the 1st January 1848, and the stock, amounting to 6,341-6-6½, on the same date.

2nd. Of the whole advances made by Government for the establishment of this school in buildings, stocks, &c. only 2,763-6-9 remain due, while the whole buildings themselves are estimated at 7,323-2-8. Two more large working wards are now being added, and the work is done by the prisoners alone, so that little or no outlay is required.

3rd. The carpets now made from English patterns, lately received, are considered to be the best in India; and others, of a lighter kind and of elegant patterns, lately received out from Kidderminster, are being commenced upon, and will be found so admirably adapted to this climate, that a very large sale may be calculated upon, as well among native families of rank as among Europeans.

4th. I inspected this establishment only a few days ago, and nothing could be more gratifying than the state in which I found it, showing that the object, which Government had in view, had been carried out beyond my most sanguine hopes. A great number of the sons of Thugs are amongst the most expert of the members, and can earn a very handsome subsistence by their labour as such. These will, by degrees, become independent of instruction and aid in the factory; and instead

of retaining them upon the establishment as journeymen or day-labourers, they will be allowed to set up for themselves in the town of Jubbulpoor, and to sell their finished work privately, or to the factory, when of the approved quality which the factory turns out. A small capital will be advanced to the head men of all such small establishments to set them up, to be refunded as their finished work is supplied or sold. Jubbulpoor will thus become a manufacturing town; and as the fathers and other male relations of these boys, who spent the early part of their career in the murder of their fellow men, die off, as they are now fast doing, the recollection of their horrible trade will cease to excite any other feeling than such as that which converts to a new creed feel for the errors of their forefathers; and one of the best signs I saw at the School of Industry on this visit was, the dislike which all seemed to feel, on being questioned by the officers, who accompanied me, on any thing about the trade of Thuggee.

5th. On former occasions, they seemed to answer all such questions with pride and pleasure, as it gave them opportunities of displaying their skill, and descanting on the wealth and rank they had acquired in the trade; but so many of their old associates have now died off, and so many of their sons and brothers have acquired respectability, and independent competence, by their skill and industry in manufactures, that they find no one willing to listen; and the oldest and most hardened seems to be ashamed to recollect what he and his ancestors had been.

6th. As the factory is now in so thriving a state, and so independent of any further contributions from Government, I must solicit the favourable consideration of His Lordship in Council to a proposal made to me by Mr. Williams, the Overseer, during this my visit. It is to have a young man invited out from the town of Kidderminster, in the county of Worcester, one of good character and sober habits, who has served his full apprenticeship in that town at the trade of making carpets, known in the trade by the name of "Brussels' Carpeting"—that he shall be promised a salary of sixty pounds a year, or sixty rupees a month, with a prospect of increase after a period of good service—that he shall, like the Overseer, have a house built for him by the prisoners—that his passage shall be paid to India and to Jubbulpoor, and that his salary shall commence from the day he lands—that he have to bring with him two looms for the manufacture of the above named carpeting, with all the apparatus required for the same, so that he may be prepared to commence work immediately after his arrival—that the said two looms be made with all the latest improvements, and with wood that is likely to resist the effects of climate.

7th. As the welfare of the factory now depends so much upon the presence of one man, Mr. Williams, who may be invited away, or obliged to go from ill health, I beg most earnestly to solicit the favourable consideration of His Lordship in Council to this proposal. The factory will not only be able to bear the cost, but will benefit much by the acquisition in its out-turn; and be better able to bear the increased number of pupils which it has to expect in the professional Decoits, who have been or are being seized, and their sons.

8th. I may here insert the following memorandum drawn from the accounts of the factory :

Liabilities on the 1st January 1842	9,067	7	2
Total value of stock-in-trade, out- standing debt, buildings, &c. on the same date	7,859	14	0
Against the factory ... ..	...	...	1,207 9 2
Liabilities on the 1st January 1848	2,893	6	9
Value of fixed and floating stock, and outstanding recoverable ba- lances on that date	28,176	4	10
Balance in favour of the factory, 1st January 1848	25,282	14	1

9th. Should the proposal for an Assistant to Mr. Williams, receive the sanction of Government, orders will be sent home for the best young man procurable at Kidderminster, on the terms offered, being sent out with the machinery required ; so that he may come up to Jubbulpoor during the next cold season, and commence work immediately.

10th. I should mention that the chief cause of the large outstanding balance arises from the difficulty of obtaining remittances from the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, whence the chief orders for goods come.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. H. SLEEMAN,
General Superintendent.

CAMP DUMOH,
2nd February, 1848.

ANNUAL ACCOUNT of the Jubbulpoor

Due to Government on account of advances ...	2763 6 9	
Received an advance within the year ...	2700 0 0	
Total due ...	5463 6 9	
Paid within the year ...	2700 0 0	
Due to Government on the 1st January 1848 ...	.....	2763 6 9
Due to individuals during the year 1847 ...	2773 12 6	
Paid within the year 1847 ...	2773 12 6	
Due to individuals on the 1st January 1848 ...	.....	130 0 0
Total liabilities ...		2893 6 9

Paid within the year 1847, for raw materials, approvers, and their sons, hired workmen, &c.	31,422 6 4	
Overseer's commission on the sales at three per cent. ...	965 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	
School establishment...	156 0 0	
Pay of chuprassies ...	177 12 10	
Refunded to the estate of the late Captain Postans ...	150 0 0	
Refunded to Colonel W. H. Sleeman ...	100 0 0	
		32,971 10 $2\frac{1}{2}$
Repaid to Superintendent's treasury ...	1700 0 0	
Ditto to Koosal Chund ...	1000 0 0	
		2700 0 0
In hand on the 1st January 1848 ...	.....	1131 15 3
Total, Company's Rupees ...		36,803 9 $5\frac{1}{2}$

(Signed) J. B. WILLIAMS,
Overseer.

School of Industry, for the year 1847.

JUBBULPOOR, 12TH JANUARY 1848.

Fixed Stock in tools and buildings, on the 1st January 1847	12,980 2 8	
Paid for the Overseer's house	950 0 0	
Expended in a new workshop, and two new sets of lines for the Decoit Approvers	716 2 8	
Moveable Stock in raw materials and manufactured goods	16,073 7 10½	
Outstanding debts	23,928 14 4½	
		54,648 11 7
Total value of stock in trade ...		54,648 11 7

In hand on the 1st January 1847 ... ..	.....	1572 11 9½
Received within the year for goods sold	32,530 13 8½	
Ditto in advance during the year	2700 0 0	
		35,230 13 8½
Total Company's Rupees ...		36,803 9 5½

(Signed) J. SLEEMAN, *Captain,*
Superintendent.

MEMORANDUM of the manner in which the Approvers, their Sons, and the Prisoners are employed at Jubbulpoor.

JUBBULPOOR, 4TH FEBRUARY 1848.

DESCRIPTION OF EMPLOYMENT.	Approvers.	Sons.	Prisoners.	Hired Teachers.	Total.
<i>Tents.</i> —Employed in bowing and cleaning the cotton	2	0	5	0	7
Ditto in spinning the cotton into thread	13	0	5	0	18
Ditto in opening thread and doubling it for weaving	17	0	2	0	19
Ditto in weaving of tent-cloth	10	40	10	0	60
Ditto in washing, bleaching, and kyanizing	9	0	0	0	9
Ditto in printing of chintz for lining of tents	5	8	3	0	16
Ditto in making of cotton ropes for tents	12	0	0	0	12
Ditto in making newhar, chicks, fringe, &c.	20	0	1	0	21
Ditto in opening and preparing thread for dyeing, for the carpets...	17	0	0	0	17
Ditto in making the tents and other cotton carpets	44	0	14	0	58
Ditto in turning and lacquering tent poles	0	3	6	1	10
Ditto in sewing and making the tent bags	0	0	4	0	4
Ditto in making the iron-work, as also other articles required in } the blacksmith's line	0	3	11	2	16
Ditto in sewing the leather work for the tents	0	0	0	8	8
Making tape for binding doors and horse clothing	8	19	0	0	27
Straightening and preparing the bamboos for kunauts	2	0	0	0	2
Ditto in sewing the tents	45	10	5	2	62
<i>Table Linen.</i> —Employed in weaving table-cloths and napkins	4	4	4	0	12
<i>Woollen Carpets.</i> —Pickers and cleaners of wool, preparatory to dyeing ..	19	0	8	0	27
Dyers for this carpeting, the Kidderminster and sutringee	0	0	14	0	14
Employed in the manufacture of the carpeting	3	44	0	0	47
<i>Kidderminster Carpet.</i> —Ditto in twisting the thread required for this } purpose	27	0	0	0	27
Ditto in spinning a kind of cord, worked up inside	8	0	6	0	14
Ditto in manufacturing the carpeting	10	12	0	0	22
<i>Gun Wadding.</i> —Fetters of gun wadding—felt hats, &c.	0	0	4	0	4
<i>Paper.</i> —Employed in making paper	9	0	1	0	10
<i>Unprofitable Labour.</i> —Ditto as bheesties, sweepers, and wood-cutters ..	2	0	6	0	8
Ditto as bricklayers at Government works	17	0	0	0	17
Ditto brick-making and bricklayer's labourers	37	0	13	0	50
Ditto carpenter's shop for the repair of tools, building, &c.	2	10	2	0	14
Ditto as sawyers	4	0	0	0	4
Ditto as cart drivers, weighmen, &c.	5	0	2	0	7
Employed as second teacher in the school	1	0	0	0	1
Ditto as guards at the gates of the factory	29	0	0	0	29
In the lines and jail from old age	50	0	18	0	68
Under punishment on the roads	13	0	39	0	52
Residing in the city 2—in hospital 2	4	0	2	0	6
Learning to read and write in the school	0	39	0	0	39
On command with Captain Sleeman, Superintendent	12	0	0	0	12
Total employed, ..	460	192	183	15	850

(Signed) J. B. WILLIAMS, Overseer.

No. 1600.

TO MAJOR W. H. SLEEMAN,

Commissioner for the suppression of Dacoity.

Judicial Department.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 18th and 20th ultimo, with their enclosures, relative to granting pardon for all past offences to professional Dacoits.

2. In reply I am directed to state that the Governor General does not learn from these papers, or from those noted in the margin, the position in which it is intended by you that the pardoned offender, in cases of Dacoity, shall stand in relation to the Tribunals of justice and the Magistrate, and on this point you are requested to submit further explanations.

Your letter dated 27th March, with enclosure.

3. The Governor General is disposed, when satisfied on the above point, so far to accede to your proposition as to authorize you to promise to any Dacoits, principals, or others, from whom it is expected that valuable information may be obtained, the exemption from death and transportation, for all past offences, of which they make a full confession to yourself, or to any Magistrate or Officer connected with your department, exercising the powers of a Magistrate.

4. But His Lordship is of opinion that, as in cases of Thuggee, the conditions of mercy should be—

1st. That the offender make a full and unreserved confession of those offences for which he deserves a pardon.

2ndly. That he shall plead guilty, before the Court, to such of those offences as it may be deemed expedient to commit him to trial for—and

3rdly. That he shall give true and faithful information respecting his accomplices, and touching all circumstances connected with the case or cases, whenever called on to do so.

5. In every instance, His Lordship is disposed to think a specific sentence should be recorded by the Sessions Court against the Dacoit—the execution of which would be suspended during the good behaviour and approved conduct of the convict; and this sentence might be eventually entirely remitted in cases wherein the Commissioner for the suppression of Dacoity should deem the person to have merited, by a course

of true and faithful service, or for other reasons, such indulgence from the Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. CURRIE,
Offg. Secy. to Govr. Genl.
N. W. P.

SIMLA,
The 27th June, 1839.

No. 1889.

TO MAJOR W. H. SLEEMAN,
Commissioner for the suppression of Dacoity,

Judicial Department.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, Nos. 348 and 364, dated the 8th and 11th instant, with their enclosures; and in reply to inform you that the Right Hon'ble the Governor General authorizes you to offer mercy, in the name of the Government, to any Dacoit, from whom you may have reason to expect that useful information may be procured, on the conditions described in the form of certificate appended to your letter of the 8th instant.

2. Copies of this correspondence will be sent to the Court of Nizamut Adawlut, for information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. CURRIE,
Secy. to the Govr. Genl.
N. W. P.

SIMLA,
The 29th July, 1839.

ACTS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF INDIA
FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THUGGEE AND DACOITY.

ACT No. XXX OF 1836.

I. It is hereby enacted, that whoever shall be proved to have belonged, either before or after the passing of this Act, to any gang of Thugs, either within or without the Territories of the East India Company, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, with hard labor.

II. And it is hereby enacted, that every person accused of the offence made punishable by this Act, may be tried by any Court, which would have been competent to try him, if his offence had been committed within the Zillah where that Court sits, any thing to the contrary, in any Regulation contained, notwithstanding.

III. And it is hereby enacted, that no Court shall, on a trial of any person accused of the offence made punishable by this Act, require any Futwa from any Law Officer.

ACT No. XVIII OF 1837.

It is hereby enacted, that any person charged with murder by Thuggee, or with the offence of having belonged to a gang of Thugs, made punishable by Act No. XXX. of 1836, may be committed by any Magistrate or Joint Magistrate within the Territories of the East India Company, for trial before any Criminal Court, competent to try such person on such charge.

ACT No. XIX OF 1837.

It is hereby enacted, that no person shall, by reason of any conviction for any offence whatever, be incompetent to be a witness in any stage of any cause, Civil or Criminal, before any Court, in the Territories of the East India Company.

ACT No. XVIII OF 1839.

It is hereby enacted, that any person accused of the offence of murder by Thuggee, or of the offence of unlawfully and knowingly receiving

or buying property stolen or plundered by Thuggee, may be tried by any Court which would have been competent to try him, if his offence had been committed within the Zillah where that Court sits, any thing contained in any Regulation or Regulations, to the contrary, notwithstanding.

ACT No. XVIII of 1843.

Whereas it often happens that the offences of Thuggee and Dacoity are committed by gangs, as well within the Territories subject to the Government of the East India Company, as in those of Native Princes, or States in alliance with the said Company, and it may be necessary, for the safety of persons and property within the Territories subject to the Government of the East India Company, that persons convicted of the like offences, within the Territories of such Princes or States, should be kept in secure custody, which cannot always be done within the last mentioned Territories.

It is hereby enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Local Government of any part of the Territories subject to the Government of the East India Company, to authorize the reception and detention, in any part of those Territories, for the periods specified in their respective sentences, of persons sentenced to imprisonment or transportation for the offences of Thuggee, Dacoity, or the offences of belonging to any gang of Thugs or Dacoits, within the Territories of any Native Prince or State in alliance with the said Company. Provided always, that such sentences shall have been pronounced after trial before a Tribunal, in which a covenanted servant of the East India Company, duly authorized in that behalf by such Prince or State, shall be one of the presiding Judges. And it is hereby enacted, that every servant of the East India Company so authorized as aforesaid, shall forward, with every prisoner, a certificate of his conviction, and a copy of the proceedings held at the trial, that the same may be forthcoming for reference at the place where the sentence of imprisonment may be carried into effect.

ACT No. XXIV of 1843.

Whereas it has been considered necessary to adopt more stringent measures for the conviction of professional Dacoits, who belong to certain tribes, systematically employed in carrying on their lawless pursuits in different parts of the country, and for this purpose to extend the provisions of Acts XXX. of 1836, XVIII. of 1837, and XVIII. of 1839, for the prevention of Thuggee, to persons concerned in the perpetration of Dacoity.

I. It is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall be proved to have belonged, either before or after the passing of this Act, to any gang of Dacoits, either within or without the Territories of the East India Company, shall be punished with transportation for life, or with imprisonment for any less term, with hard labor.

II. And it is hereby enacted, that any person accused of the offence of Dacoity, with or without murder, or of having belonged to a gang of Dacoits, or of the offence of unlawfully and knowingly receiving or buying property stolen or plundered by Dacoity, may be committed by any Magistrate within the Territories of the East India Company, and may be tried by any Court which would have been competent to try him, if his offence had been committed within the Zillah where that Court sits.

III. And it is hereby enacted, that no Court shall, on trial of the offences specified in this Act, require any Futwa from any Law Officer.

ACT No. XIV OF 1844.

I. It is hereby enacted, that within the territories subject to the Government of the East India Company, whenever any of the Sudder Courts shall sentence any offender to imprisonment for life, it shall at the same time sentence such offender to transportation beyond Sea for life, unless there should be special reasons inducing the Court to think such prisoner not a proper subject for transportation, which special reasons the Court is hereby directed to record.

II. And it is hereby enacted, that within the said Territories, whenever any offender shall have been sentenced, in the first instance, by a Commissioner of Circuit or Sessions Judge to imprisonment for life, or whenever a Commissioner of Circuit or Sessions Judge shall have recommended that sentence of imprisonment for life be passed upon any offender, it shall be competent to a single Judge of the Sudder Court to sentence such offender, at the same time, to transportation beyond Sea for life, and such single Judge is hereby directed to sentence such offender at the same time to transportation beyond Sea for life, unless there should be special reasons inducing him to think such offender not a proper subject for transportation, which special reasons he is hereby further directed to record.

ACT No. V OF 1847.

I. It is hereby enacted, that within the Territories subject to the Government of the East India Company, and without the local limits

of the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Courts of Judicature, the several Officers in charge of Jails shall be competent to give effect to any sentence that may be passed by any Court established, or that may be established, by the authority of the Governor General of India in Council, for the administration of Criminal justice in States or Territories administered by Officers acting under the authority of the East India Company, although such States or Territories are not subject to the Government of any one of the Presidencies of Fort William in Bengal, Fort St. George, or Bombay, or are not subject to the operation of the General Regulations.

II. And it is hereby enacted, that a warrant, under the Official Seal and Signature of the Officer or Officers exercising Criminal jurisdiction within such States or Territories, as aforesaid, shall be sufficient authority for holding any prisoner in confinement, or for transmitting any prisoner for transportation beyond Sea, or for inflicting any other punishment prescribed therein.

III. And it is hereby enacted, that if any Officer in charge of a jail shall entertain any doubt as to the legality of any warrant sent to him for execution under this Act, or as to the competency of the person or persons, whose Official Seal and Signature may be affixed thereto, to pass the sentence and issue such warrant, such Officer shall refer the matter to the Government to which he is subject, by whose order on the case such Officer and all other Public Officers shall be guided, as to the future disposal of the prisoner; and that, pending any such reference, the prisoner shall be detained in custody, in such manner, and with such restrictions or mitigations, as may be specified in the warrant.

IV. And it is hereby enacted, that the provisions of the existing Acts and Regulations, and all other Rules in force for the treatment and security of prisoners confined in the said jails, shall apply, and be of equal force and effect, in the case of prisoners confined therein under this Act, as in the case of other prisoners confined therein.

ACT No. X OF 1847.

It is hereby enacted, that within the Territories subject to the Government of the East India Company, whenever any Court not included under the provisions of Act XXIV. of 1843, shall sentence any offender to imprisonment for life, under the provisions of Act XXX. of 1836, it shall at the same time sentence such offender to transportation beyond Sea for life, unless there should be special reasons inducing the Court to think such prisoner not a proper subject for transportation, which special reasons the Court is hereby directed to record.

ACT No. III of 1848.

Whereas doubts have arisen as to the meaning of the words "Thug" and "Thuggee," and the expression "Murder by Thuggee," when used in the Acts of the Council of India:—

It is hereby declared and enacted, that the word "Thug," when used in any Act heretofore passed by the Council of India, shall be taken to have meant and to mean a person who is, or has at any time been habitually associated with any other or others for the purpose of committing, by means intended by such person or known by such person to be likely to cause the death of any person, the offence of Child-stealing, or the offence of Robbery not amounting to Dacoity. And that the word "Thuggee," when used in such Acts, shall be taken to have meant and to mean the offence of committing or attempting any such Child-stealing, or Robbery by a Thug. And that the expression "Murder by Thuggee," when used in such Acts, shall be taken to have meant and to mean Murder, when employed as the means of committing such Child-stealing, or such Robbery by a Thug.

ACT No. XI of 1848.

Whereas it is expedient to extend some of the provisions of the Law for the conviction of Thugs and Dacoits to other gangs of Thieves and Robbers, It is enacted, as follows :

I. Whosoever shall be proved to have belonged, either before or after the passing of this Act, to any wandering gang of persons, associated for the purposes of theft or robbery, not being a gang of Thugs or Dacoits, shall be punished with imprisonment, with hard labor, for any term not exceeding seven years.

II. Any person accused of the offence of belonging to any such gang as aforesaid, or of the offence of unlawfully and knowingly receiving or buying property stolen or plundered by any such gang, may be committed by any Magistrate within the Territories of the East India Company, and may be tried by any Court which would have been competent to try him, if his offence had been committed within the Zillah where that Court sits.

III. No Court shall, on the trial of any offence under this Act, require any Futwa from any Law Officer.

TABLES SHEWING THE NUMBER OF BUDHUK DACOITS NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE JUNNA IN 1839, WHEN OPERATIONS AGAINST THEM COMMENCED.

LIST of Budhuk Decoit Leaders, South of the River Jumna in 1839.

NAMES OF JEMADARS OR LEADERS.	Parentage.	Number of Followers.	RESIDENCE.			REMARKS.
			Village.	Pergunnah.	Districts.	
Gugraj ...	Son of Munsooreea...	200	Ooncha ...	Seepoor ...	Gwalior ...	Died in the Moradabad jail, 1843.
Rutuna ...	Son of Jewun ...	25	Judpoora ...	Luchmunungur	Alwur ...	Fourteen years' imprisonment, Ajmere.
Sookpaul ...	Son of Zalim ...	30	Manikpoor ...	Gotra ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto.
Danna ...	Son of Amirta ...	25	Ludpoora ...	Luchmunungur	Ditto ...	Imprisonment for life, Ajmere—escaped.
Huttee Sing ...	Son of Munguneeea ...	30	Naeka Jhirna ...	.....	Jypoor ...	Died in jail at Ajmere.
Balkishun ...	Son of Teyja ...	40	Juroulee ...	Kurowly ...	Ditto ...	Killed in resisting arrest.
Soojan Sing ...	.....	...	Manikpoor ...	Gotree ...	Alwur ...	Five years' imprisonment at Ajmere.
Ajut Sing ...	Son of Huzaree ...	50	Naeka Jhirna ...	Hindone ...	Jypoor ...	Killed in Bundelcund, 1843.
Jugdewa ...	Son of Shumshere ...	25	Godla ...	Sabulgur ...	.....	{ Killed in attempting to escape from the
Mowjeea ...	Adopted son of Bha geerut	35	Lilolee ...	Seepoor ...	Gwalior ...	{ Agra jail, 1846.
Teyja ...	Son of Huzaree ...	30	Jourpanee ...	Hindone ...	Jypoor ...	{ For life, Ajmere.
Ranjeeet ...	Son of Dana ...	30	.....	Kurowly ...	Ditto ...	Jhalone Police.
Amur Sing ...	.....	15	Kurowly ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Transported.
Dana ...	Son of Seojceram ...	20	Rae ...	Munrail ...	Kurowly ...	Jhalone Police.
Humeera ...	Son of Mancee Khan ...	20	Soopur ...	Soopur ...	Gwalior ...	Fourteen years, Agra jail.
Motee ...	Son of Ram Chund ...	20	Godla ...	Subulgur ...	Ditto ...	{ Killed in attempting his escape from
Bukshae ...	{ Son of Sadullea, bro- ther of Munsooree }	25	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	{ the Agra jail, 1846.—Ten years in
Jowahir ...	Son of Bhookaneeea ...	20	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	{ the Ajmere jail
						Died at home.
						Died in jail at Gwalior, 1842.
						Escaped from confinement and still at large.

NAMES OF JEMADARS OR LEADERS.	Parentage.	Number of Followers.	RESIDENCE.			REMARKS.
			Village.	Pergunnah.	Districts.	
Indur	Son of Rutna ..	20	Kotree ..	Hindone ...	Jypoor	{ Escaped from the Agra jail, 1846, and at large.
Mowjee	Son of Teyjee ..	10	Horapoor .....	.....	Kurwoly ...	In the Agra jail.
Kodna	Son of Anundy	15	Maroli	Junursa ...	Gwalior	In confinement, Ajmere.
Hindoon	{ Adopted son of Mun- scoreea ..	15	Orcha ka Porwa	Sepoor	Ditto	
Hareeram ..	Son of Dheela ..	10	Nudeegow	Ditto	Ditto	Died at Lucknow.
Bindha	Son of Newul ..	15	Gotrahi .. ..	.....	Alwur	Killed in resisting arrest.
Bikermajeet ..	Son of Teyja ..	10	Hurunpoor .....	.....	Kurwoly ...	Died at home.
Bhow	Son of Donga ..	10	Nudeegow ..	Seepoor ..	Gwalior	In confinement, Nusseerabad.
Bolakee	Son of Bhora ..	15	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Not known.
Kulla	Son of Kaleea ..	10	.....	Kondar	Kurwoly	Died in jail at Ajmere.
Buljeeta	Son of Hutee Sing	10	.....	.....	Ditto	At large.
Bhimma	Son of Enurta ..	50	.....	.....	Ditto	Died at home, 1842.
Rama	Son of Suroleea ..	10	Esurda	Hindone ...	Jypoor	At large.
Nanda	Son of Budna ..	20	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Khoman Sing ..	Son of Dhurm Das	10	Nudeegow ..	Seepoor ..	Gwalior	Died in jail, Ajmere.
Oderam	Son of Bhimma ..	10	Tuloea	Kondar	Kurwoly	Died in prison at Gwalior.
Ramjeet <i>alias</i> Kulla ..	Son of Ramkishan	10	Tutooa .. ..	.....	Ditto	Approver.
Laljeet	Son of Huzaree ..	30	Rajool ka Porwa	.....	Ditto	Approver at Jhansi.
Jaita	Son of Dewa ..	10	.....	Kondar	Ditto	In the factory at Jubbulpoor.
Rutna	Son of Bhow Sing	10	.....	Ditto	Ditto	In jail, Ajmere.
Dorjuna	Son of Heera, brother of Bhowanee ..	10	Nudeegow ..	Soopur	Gwalior ..	Died at home.
Kuleean, brother of Gujraj Jemadar ... }	Son of Munsooreea ..	10	Kaimora	Subulgur ..	Ditto	Died at home.
Total ...		1625				

LIST of Budhuk Decoit Leaders, North of the Jumna River in 1839.

NAMES OF JEMADARS OR LEADERS.	Parentage.	Number of Followers.	RESIDENCE.			REMARKS.
			Village.	Pergunnah.	District.	
Pohup Sing	Son of Pema	30	..... ..	..... ..	Alighur ..	Died in the Lucknow jail.
Khunjun	Son of Sehtee	30	Torapoor	Ojuanee ..	Budaon	Transported.
Bubotee	..... ..	20	Teree	Bisulpoor	Barally	Dead.
Buldewa	..... ..	20	Koorce .. ..	..... ..	Ditto	Dunoh Police.
Khema	..... ..	25	Burra	Ojuanee ..	Budaon	Dead.
Baduna	Son of Moteelal	10	Gudowly .. ..	..... ..	Saharunpoor ..	Jhalone Police.
Kulloo	..... ..	10	Ditto .. ..	..... ..	Ditto	Died in Jhalone.
Baduna	Son of Sewa	20	Kollar .. ..	..... ..	Shajehanpoor	Jhalone Police.
Dullea	Son of Naeka	100	Dhera Jugdispoor	Khyrabad ..	Oude	On a grant of land, Goruckpoor.
Umur Sing	Son of Khyratee	12	Gogow	Mohomdee ..	Ditto	Jhalone Police.
Urjun	Son of Futteh Sing, } <i>alias</i> Prethee	25	Dhera	Khyrabad ..	Ditto	Approver, Jubbulpoor.
Beneram	Son of Ruteeram	100	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Transported.
Buchraj	Son of Dhapaal	10	Bulrampoor ..	..... ..	Ditto	In the Benares Police.
Bhoop, <i>alias</i> Bhoopaul.	..... ..	20	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	{ Not known where,—supposed to have died during the pursuit.
Byjoo, <i>alias</i> Byjonath ..	Son of Cheynoon	20	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto.
Bunoobas, <i>alias</i> Secta- ram .. ..	..... ..	30	Rajghur .. ..	..... ..	Ditto	Died in the Turae, during the pursuit.
Khemla, <i>alias</i> Khemraj	Son of Bunoobas	20	Bahadurnugur ..	..... ..	Ditto	Ditto ditto.
Inderjeet	Son of Kodeela	15	Gogow	Mohomdee ..	Ditto	In the Azinghur Police.
Bhageerut	Son of Ruteeram	40	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Transported.
Pholail	..... ..	14	Dhera	Khyrabad ..	Ditto	Ditto.
Bureear	Son of Jorawun	10	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Buldewa	20	Gogow	Mohomdee ..	Ditto	Died in the Banda Police Battalion.
Tolseea	Son of Mutroo or Buk- sha	In the Lucknow jail.

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NAMES OF JEMADARS OR LEADERS.	Parentage.	Number of Followers.	RESIDENCE.			REMARKS.
			Village.	Pergunnah.	District.	
Somere Sing, alias So- maira	Son of Ruteeram	60	Gogow	Mohomdee ...	Oude	In the Police at Shahjehanpoor.
Sojaun	Son of Pohpee	25	Bhaden	Bisulpoor	Bareilly	In the Jhalone Police.
Cheydee	Son of Chand Rae	25	Bulroopoor ... ..	..... .....	Oude	Transported.
Luckha	Son of Sadoleea	20	Gogow	Mohomdee ...	Ditto	Jhalone Police.
Mungul Sing	Son of Salwa	200	Gonda	Ditto	Ditto	Transported.
Rambul	Son of Ruteeram	75	Gogow	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Mahajeet	Son of Bukshee	100	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Seetaram	Son of Ruteeram	50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Munooa ... ..	..... ..	15	Dhera	Khayrabad	Ditto	Ditto.
Buchraj	Son of Sumsee	30	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Dumoh Police Battalion.
Kulloo Geedeea ... ..	..... ..	...	Houseepoor	Hurdwar ...	Saharunpoor ..	
Soorja	Son of Nechul	19	Gudwary .....	..... .....	Ditto	In the Dumoh Police.
Khunna ... ..	..... ..	20	Gonda	Buraech ...	Oude	Ditto ditto.
Badulooa	Son of Chunda	30	Gogow ... ..	..... .....	Ditto	Jhalone Police.
Mowjeea	Adopted son of Kolumna	20	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Died during the pursuit.
Dhunnoo	Son of Sorja	100	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Transported.
Dulwa	Son of Bhajna	35	Dhera	Khayrabad ...	Ditto	Unknown where.
Mohkuma	Son of Jankee and bro- ther of Dulthumun ..	30	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Dead.
Ragonath	Son of Titra	15	..... ..	Kottar	Shahjehanpoor	Killed in the Turae.
Gahaneea	Son of Fukeera	15	Dhorehra ... ..	..... .....	Oude	Died in the Lucknow jail.
Jowahir, son-in-law of Kulunder	Son of Nowlah	15	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Approver, Lucknow.
Duleep	Son of Dulput	25	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Died in the Turae during the pursuit.
Purtaub	Son of Dulleep	20	Ditto ... ..	..... .....	Ditto	Died during the pursuit.
Total ...		1445				

Tabular Statement of the result of the Trials which have taken place at different places, since the operations for the suppression of the system of Thuggee commenced, from 1826 to 1847.

YEARS.	Station.	Committed by	Tried by	No. of Prisoners committed.	SENTENCE.						Escaped before sentence.	Died before sentence.	Made Approvers after committal.	Grand total.	REMARKS.
					Death.	Transportation.	Imprisonment for life.	Ditto on a requisition of security.	Limited imprisonment.	Total.					
1826 ..	Jubbulpoor ..	Mr. Fraser and Major Wardlaw	Mr. Wilder, A. G. Gl. ..	32	2	24	0	3	3	32	0	0	0	32	{ The Magistrate of Mynpoore seized them, and sent them to Dhoolia, in Candeish.
1828 ..	{ Dhoolia, in } { Candeish }	Mr. Boyd, Magistrate ..	Mr. Kentish, Sessions Judge	6	4	2	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	
1829 ..	Indore	Major Borthwick	Colonel Stewart	78	39	21	0	0	11	71	2	0	0	5	
" ..	{ Dhoolia, in } { Candeish }	Major Hodges	{ Mr. Marriott, Sessions } { Judge	13	2	6	1	0	0	9	4	0	0	0	
1830 ..	Jubbulpoor ..	Capt. Sleeman	Mr. Smith, A. G. Gl.	100	38	26	0	0	32	96	1	0	0	3	
1832 ..	Indore	Major Borthwick	Messrs. Martin and Wel- lesly	40	21	12	0	0	3	36	0	0	0	4	
" ..	Saugor	Capt. Sleeman	Mr. Smith, A. G. Gl.	370	105	167	38	0	10	320	2	0	21	27	
1833 ..	Ditto	Capt. Sleeman, Messrs. } McLeod and Wilson }	Ditto, ditto	230	40	156	3	2	0	201	0	0	29	0	
" ..	Hydrabad	Capt. Reynolds	Col. Stewart, Resident ..	86	21	45	17	1	0	84	0	0	2	0	
" ..	Poonah	Mr. J. A. Barber	Mr. Marriott, Sessions } Judge	23	19	0	0	4	0	23	0	0	0	0	
1833-34	Cawnpoor ..	Mr. Wilson	Mr. Stockwell and others ..	11	9	2	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	
1833 ..	Ghazeepoor ..	Mr. E. P. Smith	Mr. W. C. Smith, Sessions } Judge	8	6	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	
1834 ..	Benares	Mr. Morrison	Mr. Taylor, Sessions Judge	5	0	4	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	
1835 ..	Indore	Major Borthwick	Mr. Bax, Resident	19	5	12	0	0	2	19	0	0	0	0	
Carried over				1023	311	479	59	10	61	910	10	0	52	39	1011

YEARS.	Station.	Committed by	Tried by	No. of Prisoners committed.	SENTENCE.					Acquitted.	Escaped before sentence.	Died before sentence.	Made Approvers after committal.	Grand total.	REMARKS.
					Death.	Transportation.	Imprisonment for life.	Ditto on a requisition of security.	Limited imprisonment.	Total.					
1834 ..	Saugor	Capt. Sleeman, Messrs. McLeod and Wilson }	Brought forward	1023	311	479	59	10	61	910	10	0	52	39 1011	{ Approvers from different parts of India.
1835 ..	Jubbulpoor ..	Capt. Sleeman	Mr. Smith, A. G. Gl.	397	40	265	5	7	7	324	6	11	48	8 397	
" ..	Ditto	Capt. Sleeman	Ditto, ditto	235	0	235	0	0	0	235	0	0	0	0 235	
" ..	Bareilly	Capt. Sleeman, Capt. Reynolds, Mr. McLeod, and Mr. Wilson ..	Ditto, ditto	236	31	165	3	4	3	206	5	0	23	2 236	Sentence suspended on two.
1836 ..	Sholapoor ..	Mr. Wilson	Sessions Judge, Bareilly ..	3	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0 3	
" ..	Jubbulpoor ..	Capt. Reynolds	Messrs. Bell and Gilmore, Sessions Judges	7	0	1	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0 7	
" ..	Furreedpore ..	Mr. Martin	Hon'ble F. J. Shore	250	37	172	18	0	0	227	6	0	12	3 248	{ Including 23 Approvers,—3 recommended for further evidence.
1837 ..	Chupra	Captain Ramsay and Lieut. Sleeman	Mr. Cock, Sessions Judge ..	12	0	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	0	0 12	
" ..	Jubbulpoor ..	Capt. Reynolds, Lieut. Brown, and others ..	Mr. Ravenshaw, Sessions Judge	55	2	0	44	0	0	46	0	0	6	0 52	
" ..	Belchree	Capt. Elwall	Mr. Fraser, A. G. Gl.	121	13	70	25	2	0	110	3	0	2	0 115	{ Two were acquitted, owing to their tender age.
" ..	Lucknow	Capt. Elwall	Sessions Court	5	2	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0 5	
" ..	Belchree	Capt. Elwall	Col. Low, Resident	74	0	0	58	0	1	59	6	1	8	0 74	
" ..	Chuprah	Capt. Ramsay	Sessions Court	7	3	0	2	0	0	5	2	0	0	0 7	Including 17 Approvers.
" ..	Mysore	Capt. Elwall	C. J. Udny, Esq., Sessions Judge	22	0	0	22	0	0	22	0	0	0	0 22	
" ..	Sholapoor ..	Lieut. Lumley	Col. Cubbon, Commr. for the Govt. of the territories of the Rajah of Mysore,	156	11	44	88	6	0	149	0	0	7	0 156	
" ..	Sholapoor ..	Lieut. Lumley	Messrs. Bell and Gilmore, Sessions Judges	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0 3	

YEARS.	Station.	Committed by	Tried by	No. of Prisoners committed.	SENTENCE.						Acquitted.	Escaped before sentence.	Died before sentence.	Made Approvers after committal.	Grand total.	REMARKS.	
					Death.	Transportation.	Imprisonment for life.	Ditto on a requisition of security.	Limited imprisonment.	Total.							
			Brought forward	3715	495	1577	984	77	82	3215	178	14	208	53	3472		
1841 ..	Cuttack	Capt. Vallancey	Sessions Court	9	0	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	9	Approvers.	
" ..	Bangalore ..	Major Clarke	Ditto ditto	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2		
" ..	Meerut	Capt. Mills	Ditto ditto	49	0	0	49	0	0	49	0	0	0	0	49		
" ..	Jubbulpoor ..	Capt. Reynolds	Mr. Fraser, A. G. Gl. ..	39	0	0	16	0	0	16	0	0	4	0	20	Remaining under examination 19.	
" ..	Deccan	Capt. W. C. Hollings ..	Sessions Court	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ditto ditto 29.	
1842 ..	Meerut & Agra	Capt. Graham	Ditto ditto	34	0	0	34	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	34		
" ..	Goruckpoor ..	Lieut. Nation	Ditto ditto	5	0	0	3	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	5		
" ..	Bangalore....	Capt. Vallancey	Commissioner of Mysore...	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4		
1843 ..	Agra	Capt. J. Graham	Sessions Judge	26	0	0	18	0	0	18	8	0	0	0	26		
" ..	Jubbulpoor ..	Capt. Ramsay	Lt. Col. Sleeman A. G. Gl.	31	0	0	30	1	0	31	0	0	0	0	31		
" ..	Bangalore ..	Capt. Vallancey	Commissioner of Mysore...	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2		
1844 ..	Rohilekund ..	Capt. J. Sleeman	Sessions Judge, Bareilly ..	7	3	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	7		
" ..	Goruckpoor ..	Capt. Ludlow	Sessions Judge	5	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	5		
" ..	Agra	Capt. Graham	Ditto ditto	10	0	0	7	0	0	7	3	0	0	0	10		
" ..	Lacknow	Capt. Hollings	Envoy at Lucknow	10	0	0	4	0	0	4	1	0	0	4	9		
" ..	Bangalore ..	Capt. Vallancey	Commissioner of Mysore ..	4	0	1	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4		
" ..	Jubbulpoor ..	Major Ramsay	Agent G. Gl.	11	0	0	10	1	0	11	0	0	0	0	11		
" ..	Ajmere	Capt. W. C. Birch	Agent G. Gl. Rajpootana ..	55	0	0	3	0	22	25	18	0	3	9	55		
" ..	Goruckpoor ..	Capt. Ludlow	Sessions Judge	7	0	0	5	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	7		
1845 ..	Agra	Capt. Graham	Ditto ditto	32	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32		
" ..	Indore	Capt. Harris	Resident at Indore	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2		
" ..	Goruckpoor ..	Capt. Ward	Ditto ditto	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1		
" ..	Rohilekund ...	Capt. Ludlow	Sessions Judge, Bareilly..	13	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	9	13	{ These were poisoners by profession.	
" ..	Jubbulpoor ..	Capt. J. Sleeman	Agent G. Gl., S. & N. T.	4	0	0	3	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	4		
1846 ..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto	5	0	0	4	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	5		
" ..	Agra	Capt. Graham	Mr. J. S. Boldero	18	0	13	0	0	0	13	5	0	0	0	18		

"	Azimgur....	Lieut. Ward	Sessions Judge, Jampur	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
"	Ditto.....	Ditto ditto	Ditto, ditto	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
"	Bangalore....	Capt. Edwards.....	Commissioner of Mysore..	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
"	Shahjehanpore	Capt. Ludlow	Mr. J. Lean, Sessions Judge	35	0	20	0	0	0	0	20	1	0	3	11	35	
1847 ..	Jubbulpore ..	Capt. Slesman.....	Agent G. Gl.	7	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	7	
"	Agra.....	Major Graham.....	J. S. Boldero, Esq., Ses- sions Judge	18	0	16	2	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
"	Indore	Capt. Harris.....	R. N. C. Hamilton, Esq., Resident	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
"	Azimgur....	Lieut. Ward.....	Sessions Judge	8	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	8	
"	Shahjehanpore	Major Ludlow	Sessions Judge, Bareilly..	14	1	10	0	0	1	12	2	0	0	0	0	14	
			Total	4230	499	1678	1200	19	108	3567	222	14	219	102	4107		

W. H. SLEEMAN.

General Superintendent.

Tabular Statement of the result of the trials which have taken place in different places since the operations for the suppression of the system of Decottee commenced, from 1839 to 1847.

Year and date of committal.	Place of trial.	Committed by	Tried by	No. of Prisoners.	SENTENCE.						Escaped before sentence.	Died before sentence.	Made Approvers after committal.	Under trial.	Grand total.	REMARKS.
					Death.	Transportation.	Imprisonment for life.	Ditto on a requisition of security.	Limited imprisonment.	Total.						
March 1839 . . .	Agra	Capt. J. Graham	Mr. Boldero, Sessions Judge	9	0	0	0	0	9	9	0	0	0	0	9	
April 1840	Badoun	Major Sleeman	Commissioner of Bareilly	12	0	0	1	3	0	4	8	0	0	0	12	
22nd July 1840 . .	Lacknow	Capt. Hollings	Resident at Lacknow	36	0	13	6	0	1	20	10	0	3	3	36	
15th Aug. 1840 . .	Meerut	Lieut. Mills	Sessions Judge of Delhi	16	0	0	0	0	16	16	0	0	0	0	16	
"	Ajmere	Capt. W. C. Birch	Agent G. Gl. Rajpootana	27	0	0	0	0	26	26	1	0	0	0	27	
"	Agra	Capt. Graham	Resident at Gwalior	15	0	0	3	0	10	13	0	0	0	2	15	
11th Feb. 1841 . .	Rampoor	Commissioner for the suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity	Nawab of Rampoor	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	
18th ditto	Rajpootana	Capt. W. C. Birch	Agent G. Gl.	14	0	0	8	0	5	13	1	0	0	0	14	
18th Mar. 1841 . .	Agra	Capt. Graham	Sessions Judge of Agra	10	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	10	
20th ditto	Indore	Capt. Riddell	Resident Indore	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	
22nd ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	
24th ditto	Jubbulpoor	Capt. Brown	Agent G. Gl. S. and N. Territories	11	0	0	0	0	10	10	1	0	0	0	11	
2nd April 1841 . .	Indore	Capt. Riddell	Agent G. Gl. Mewar	30	4	0	23	0	3	30	0	0	0	0	30	
29th ditto	Rajpootana	Capt. Birch	Agent G. Gl.	26	0	0	6	0	17	23	2	0	0	1	26	
Ditto	Allyghur	Capt. Mills	Sessions Judge of Allyghur	6	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	0	0	0	6	
Ditto	Indore	Capt. Riddell	Resident at Indore	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
25th May 1841 . .	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	10	0	0	1	0	8	9	0	0	0	0	10	
3rd June 1841 . .	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	14	0	0	1	1	12	14	0	0	0	0	14	
Ditto	Moradabad	Magistrate	Sessions Judge	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	

Year and date of committal.	Place of trial.	Committed by	Tried by	No. of Prisoners.	SENTENCE.						Escaped before sentence.	Died before sentence.	Made Approvers after committal.	Under trial.	Grand total.	REMARKS.
					Death.	Transportation.	Imprisonment for life.	Ditto on a requisition of security.	Limited imprisonment.	Total.						
27th July 1842..	Ajmere	Capt. Birch	Brought forward	455	12	13	112	8	258	403	34	0	3	12	455	
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Agent G. Gl.	16	0	0	2	0	12	14	2	0	0	0	16	
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	6	0	0	1	0	5	6	0	0	0	0	6	
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	29	0	0	2	0	25	27	2	0	0	0	29	
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	8	0	0	1	0	3	4	0	0	2	0	8	
Ditto	Shaharunpoor	Capt. Mills	Sessions Judge, Saharunpoor	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	10	
Ditto	Lucknow	Capt. Hollings	Resident at Lucknow	70	0	0	64	0	1	65	0	0	5	0	70	
Ditto	Jubbulpore ..	Capt. Ramsay	Agent G. Gl. Saugor and Nurbudda Territories ..	15	0	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	0	0	15	
Ditto	Rampoor	Commissioner for the suppression of Deceity	Nawab of Rampoor	5	2	0	0	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	5	
19th July 1843..	Indore	Capt. Wilkie	Resident at Indore	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	
30th Aug.	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	9	0	0	2	0	5	7	0	0	0	2	9	
5th Sept.	Ditto	Capt. Harris	Ditto ditto	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	
Ditto	Rohilekund ..	Capt. Sleeman	Sessions Judge, Bareilly ..	17	0	0	0	4	6	10	7	0	0	0	17	
Ditto	Bundeleund ..	Capt. Sleeman	Agent G. Gl.	17	0	0	9	0	8	17	0	0	0	0	17	
Ditto 1844	Rohilekund ..	Capt. Sleeman	Sessions Judge, Bareilly ..	9	0	3	3	0	0	6	0	0	0	3	9	
Ditto	Lucknow	Capt. Hollings	Resident at Lucknow	47	0	0	23	0	0	23	2	0	0	22	47	
Ditto	Gwalior	Capt. Ellis	Col. Sleeman, A. G. Gl. ...	32	0	0	12	0	20	32	0	0	0	0	32	
Ditto	Bundeleund ..	Capt. Ellis and Parker ..	Ditto ditto	14	0	0	5	0	9	14	0	0	0	0	14	
Ditto 1845	Gwalior	Capt. Ellis	Ditto ditto	85	0	1	61	23	0	85	0	0	0	0	85	Including 53, who surrendered on conditional pardon, and are to be employed.
Ditto	Agra	Capt. Graham	Sessions Judge, Agra	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	
Ditto	Ajmere	Capt. Birch	Agent G. Gl. Raipootana	58	0	1	14	0	33	48	10	0	0	0	58	

Sept. 1845.....	Rohilcund ..	Capt. Ludlow	Sessions Judge, Bareilly..	3	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Ditto	Oude	Capt. Hollings	Officiating Resident at } Lucknow	52	0	0	17	0	1	18	0	2	32	0	52	
Ditto 1846.....	Azinghur	Capt. H. Ward.....	Sessions Judge Jaunpore	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	
Ditto	Indore	Capt. A. Harris	Resident at Indore	64	0	0	5	22	33	60	2	0	2	0	64	
Ditto	Ajmere	Capt. Birch	Agent G. Gl. Rajpootana,	62	0	18	0	0	27	45	14	0	2	0	62	
Ditto	Gwalior.....	Capt. Ellis	Col. Sleeman	55	0	0	47	0	6	53	1	0	0	0	55	
Ditto	Shahjehanpore	Capt. Ludlow	Mr. J. Lean, Sessions } Judge	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Ditto 1847.....	Jubbulpore ..	Capt. Sleeman.....	.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ditto	Agra	Major Graham	Sessions Judge.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ditto	Gwalior.....	Capt. Ellis	Col. Sleeman, A. G. Gl. ...	22	0	15	7	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	22	
Ditto	Indore	Capt. Harris.....	R. N. C. Hamilton, Esq., } Resident	41	0	0	0	5	31	36	2	0	1	2	41	
Ditto	Azinghur ..	Lient. Ward.....	Sessions Judge	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	
			Total.....	1214	14	53	402	79	489	1055	78	0	10	46	43	1214

In August and Sept. 1844, 102 Hudduk Decoits, of the Oude Turne, the last remnants of the Gangs that had, for many generations, been located in those forests, surrendered to Capt. Ludlow, and have been distributed for employment. These offenders are not included in these Tables.

W. H. SLEEMAN,
General Superintendent.

Jhansi, Commissioner's Office, the 1st March, 1848.

THUGGEE DEPARTMENT.

Tabular Statement of the result of the trials which have taken place at different places, during the year 1848.

Year.	Station.	Committed by	Tried by	No. of Prisoners committed.	SENTENCE.						Escaped before sentence.	Died before sentence.	Made Approvers after committal.	Under trial.	Grand total.	REMARKS.
					Death.	Transportation.	Imprisonment for life.	Pitio on a requisition of security.	Limited imprisonment.	Total.						
1848.	Jubbulpore	Capt. J. Sleeman	Agent G. Gl. Saugor and Nurbudda Territories	9	0	3	0	4	0	7	0	0	2	0	9	6 Under consideration by the Sudder Nizamut Adawlut, and 2 by the Sessions Judge at Allypore.
"	Agra and Mynpooree.	Major J. Graham	J. S. Boldero and H. Union, Esqs.	59	4	3	0	1	30	38	11	0	0	0	51	
"	Aizinghur	Lieut. H. Ward	R. Neave, Esq.	8	0	0	3	1	0	4	0	0	1	3	8	None. No sentence has yet been made known against him.
"	Indore	Lieut. H. Taylor .....	.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
"	Shahjehampoor	F. O. Mayne, Esq.	J. Lean, Esq. Sessions Judge ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6 Under consideration by the Sudder Nizamut Adawlut, and 2 by the Sessions Judge at Allypore.
"	Loodhiana	W. H. Larkins	Hon'ble J. C. Erskine, Civil and Sessions Judge	40	1	18	6	1	0	26	1	0	6	7	40	
"	Bangalore	Captain Edwards	The Commissioner at Mysore ..	3	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	3	None. No sentence has yet been made known against him.
			Total ..	120	5	24	11	7	31	78	12	0	9	10	112	

W. H. SLEEMAN,
General Superintendent.

Lucknow, the 1st February, 1849.

DACOITEE DEPARTMENT.

Tabular Statement of the result of the trials which have taken place at different places, during the year 1848.

Year and date of commitment.	Place of trial.	Committed by	Tried by	No. of prisoners.	SENTENCE.							Grand total.	REMARKS.				
					Death.	Transportation.	Imprisonment for life.	Ditto on requisition of security.	Limited imprisonment.	Total.	Acquitted.			Escaped before sentence.	Died before sentence.	Made Approvers after commitment.	Under trial.
1848.	Jubbulpore	Capt. Sleeman	Agent Govr. Genl. S. and N. Territories.....	136	0	83	0	24	1	108	0	1	1	26	0	136	
"	Indore	Capt. A. Harris, and Lieut. Taylor	R. N. C. Hamilton, Esq., Resident at Indore	88	0	0	2	0	75	77	8	0	0	3	0	88	
"	Nagpore	Capt. G. Ramsay.....	Agent Govr. Genl. S. and N. Territories.....	24	0	15	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	9	0	24	
"	Loodheana	Capt. Larkins	Hon'ble J. C. Erskine, Civil and Sessions Judge	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	
"	Belgaum	Capt. Hervey	W. Frere, Esq., Sessions Judge	43	4	4	0	0	1	9	20	0	0	0	14	43	
"	Jhansi	Capt. Ellis	Agent Govr. Genl. Scindiah's Dominions, Bundelcund ..	7	0	1	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	3	7	
"	Lucknow	Capt. Hollings	Lieut. Col. Richmond, C. B. Resident, Lucknow	15	0	0	2	0	3	5	2	0	0	8	0	15	
			Total....	317	4	103	5	24	81	217	31	1	1	50	17	317	

W. H. SIEMAN, Genl. Secy.

APPENDIX.

No. 95 OF 1847.

FROM CAPTAIN W. C. BIRCH,

Assistant General Superintendent.

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL W. H. SLEEMAN,

General Superintendent, Jhansi.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit a Memorandum of the characters, habits, and original residence of the Mogheas of Meywar, as called for in para. 5 of your letter, No. 105 of 19th April last.

2. I have had some little difficulty in obtaining this narrative, as my informants are not over communicative; such, however, as it is, I trust it may prove acceptable, and give you some idea of the cause and origin of Dacoitee in this quarter, and amongst this class of society, as set forth in their own depositions.

I have, &c.

(Sd.) W. C. BIRCH,
Assistant Genl. Supt.

CAMP, NEEMUCH,
ASSIST. GENL. SUPT.'S OFFICE,
The 13th July, 1847.

Memorandum of the families and character of the Mogheas or Bowrees of Meywar, as obtained from the depositions of Zalim and Manah Jemadars.

We are Bowrees by caste and profession, and are divided into ten different classes, as hereafter set forth. Chowan, Powar, Charun, *alias* Bhatee, Dhabee, Salunkee, Dhundara, Dhundal, *alias* Rathore, Kolee, Budeara, and Ghelote. Our families have principally resided in the undermentioned villages of the Ajmere district; Deolea, Burlee, Baudulwarra, Sukranee, Jalea, Kaneah, Burrul Bhinea, Tantowtee, Naudsee, Sitana, Lamba, Musooda, Champanierpara, Goolgaon, Ratakote, Sudara, Bugairah, Jooneah, Sawur, Mehroon, Kotyan, and Pesaugun, and our chuttries, wells, and boulies are now to be found therein; independent of these, a class of our fraternity has generally resided on the banks of the Kharee, and in the undermentioned villages, subordinate to Meywar—Shahpoora, Agoucha, Gyanpoor, Ghirta, Dabla, Bunaira, Kareka Lamba, Roopahalee, Kalyas, Hursoree, Bhugwanpoora, Bunara, Hameerghur, Chittore, Gungrar, Bussee, Gwalior, Mungroop, Budesur, Bhunder, Jhunjola, Begun, Umerghur, Mowa, and Manpoora.

In Sumbut 1869 and 1890, corresponding with 1813 and 1835, A. D., in consequence of the then prevailing famine, and high price of grain in the Ajmere district, the greater portion of our families migrated into Meywar, and were very soon joined by the remainder, who, under suspicion of their being men of bad character, were forcibly ejected by the local officers of the respective villages, from which period our homes may be said to have been permanent in Malwa and Meywar, and our families to have amounted to between two and three hundred.

There are, besides us, very many Bowree families residing in Marwar, but our intercourse with them is trifling; stress of circumstances, and bad seasons in their own districts, have, however, occasionally driven them over to us, but we have never permitted them to eat with us, unless we have been fully satisfied of the respectability of their characters. Marriage has never been tolerated between us.

The Kerowlee Bagries are a different race to us, though some of our customs do correspond; we have met but very little; we do not eat together; nor can I distinctly say whether we are or are not, in reality, one and the same clan. Their Dhabee and Bhatee is one caste, whilst ours is distinct, though marriages between the two are sanctioned and recognized.

The Malwa Mogheas, again, are much more nearly allied to us in all relations of life, the principal feature of distinction existing only in

name, they adopting, on all occasions, the term Moghea, whilst we of Meywar and Ajmere, would be called Bowrees. We eat together, and are allowed to intermarry ; but with the Mogheas of the Bheel puāls, we would neither eat nor marry.

Our language is peculiar to ourselves—each clan having its own particular dialect ; the difference that may exist, being more in sound and pronunciation than in the word itself. Our occupation was that of cultivation and chokeedaree, whilst those who had free grants of land were expected to perform for their State, any offices required at their hands, such as occasional conveyance of letters, or the safe transit of goods, from their own to the next village, and so forth.

From ten years, previous to the ascendancy of the British Government in the Rajpootanah States, until seven after it, or from 1808 to 1825, A. D., the Bheels were in the habit of making great inroads into the possession of the Oodeypore Rana, and committing ravages therein ; when he, to protect himself against such outrages, had recourse to us, and hired us at the rate of six rupees per man per mensem. My father, Zalim Sing, and Gyanah Naek, were the chiefs of one party of one hundred men, which was stationed in attendance on the Rana himself, at the city of Oodeypoor ; and I have now in my possession, a certificate shewing that rent-free lands were given to him by the Durbar, in consideration of services rendered to the State. One hundred and fifty men were stationed under Jumshere, at Neemhara, formerly belonging to the Oodeypore Government, but now ceded to Tonk ; Roopa Naek had a party of seventy or eighty men at Mulhaghur ; a detachment of one hundred men, under Kesrea and Lukha Naeks, was located in the Dowlea and Pertabghur districts. The Jeerun and Cheetakhara supervision was assigned to Ooda, Rora, and Heema, with some eighty followers ; the whole of which parties were expected to act in concert, and to be prepared to repel any invasion, which might, at any time, be made by the Bheels on the Oodeypore possessions.

The tranquillity of the country being, in a measure, provided for, through the influence and agency of the British, the Oodeypore Government availed itself of the opportunity of discontinuing us from its service, and having no other employ in prospect, we turned our minds and hands to agriculture.

During the Sumbut of 1888, corresponding with the year 1831-32, A. D., a wealthy merchant, by name Maumull, chanced to be coming up from Hyderabad, and while encamped at the tomb of Noor Shah,

near the town of Neemuch, the Bowrees of Rawutkhera, Umlee Khera, and Chuldoo, suspecting him to be possessed of some valuables, plundered him of all he had; whereon the merchant laid a complaint before the officiating Political Agent, Captain Pasley, who, on instituting enquiries, discovered that the Bowrees of the abovenamed villages were the offenders. They, seeing the state of things, deserted, carrying with them all they had taken, when I, and Heera, who were the contractors for the town of Cheeta Khera, were, as influential Bowrees, called on to trace these people, with a view to their punishment.

In the course of time, we found them to be concealed in the Harowtee district; and, having obtained the whole of the plunder, with the exception of some two or three hundred rupees worth, which had either been damaged or expended, we returned to Neemuch, and made over the same to Captain MacMahon, Political Agent, Mehidpore—Captain Pasley, in the meanwhile, having gone to Aboo. The Sahookar, on seeing what we had brought back, declared on oath, that more than ten thousand rupees' worth of property was as yet unreturned, a circumstance which induced the Political Agent to make us over to the Native Governor of Neemuch, with instructions to make good to the merchant, the entire of his reported losses, estimated at ten thousand rupees.

The Governor, finding that there would be some difficulty in obtaining from us, by fair means, a restitution of the money which he had been compelled to pay in, began to ill-treat and beat us most cruelly; and eventually we induced the plunderers to come in and state whether they had or had not retained some portion of their booty.

They declared most positively, that they had honestly given in all that they had taken, with exception of what has been previously reported as expended; when he, seeing that he might prove the sufferer, directed us to cash up in full, granting us at the same time free permission to repay ourselves, wherever and in whatever manner we best could. He told us distinctly that throughout his district we might thief and plunder as much as we pleased, but that have the money he would in full.

We urged that such a procedure would bring down on us the displeasure of the British Government, when he silenced us by stating, that he was at least master of his own district, and that no one had a right of interference with him.

From this period dates the commencement, amongst our fraternity, of organized pilfering and marauding; but in all expeditions, we studiously avoided entering the territories of the British, strictly confining

ourselves to Gwalior, Indore, and other adjoining States. In the course of four or five years, sufficient had been amassed to meet the expenses we had been put to in reimbursing the Sahookar for his reported losses; and since the claim had now been adjusted in full, I was promised my discharge, on payment of a further fine of three hundred rupees to the Governor, which I managed to do, and thus obtained my release.

From the above it will be observed that we never have been professional Decoits, either by birth or character; had we been so, we might have formed gangs of forty or fifty men, and carrying our depredations into distant lands, have amassed incalculable wealth; but such has never been our pursuit or object. Our adoption of this custom was entirely forced upon us by the grinding exactions of the Neemuch Governor; true, we pursued it for a period of eight years subsequently, and with pecuniary advantage, but, on measures being put in force by the British Government against us, we abandoned the pursuit, and have, by flight and concealment, endeavoured to screen ourselves from the fate which has awaited many of our companions, who are now prisoners for life in the Agra jail. If permitted, all offenders would voluntarily come in and surrender, on condition that their lives were spared, and a suitable location determined on, in which, wholly abandoning the system of Decoitee, they might employ their hands and energies in the more peaceful pursuit of agriculture.

How we really received the title of Bowrees, I really cannot tell, but I have heard in days of yore, that some celebrated freebooter and his gang established themselves in the vicinity of some Bowree, or well, with flights of steps, from which they were in the habit of issuing forth for the sake of plunder. Many depredations were brought home to them, and in course of time all misdemeanours and offences were laid to the door of the Bowreewallahs, whether or not committed by them. The term wallah seems to have been entirely dropped, and eventually the word Bowree applied to all such as followed Decoitee as a profession.

The term Moghea, applied to the people of this stamp, residing in the Pertabghur States, may safely be traced to the circumstance of some daring and gallant act having been performed by Luckha and Kesrea Jemadars, with their gangs, on behalf of the Oodeypoor Government, when there employed, on which occasion the Rajah, to mark his sense of their services, would compare them, in value and estimate, to the richness of the stones which formed a part of his necklace; and from Monga, coral, the term has become corrupted into Moghea, but evidently originating in the above allusion.

We have no particular slang dialect, nor do we ever attempt, on any occasion, either abroad or at home, to conceal, by an assumed language, our character or pursuits. We always speak the same tongue, and never try to vary it. The corresponding terms used by the Malwa and Marwar Bowrees for words in our language, I am quite unable to tell you, as we have seldom or never met, and in fact, have very little communication with each other.

(Signed) W. C. BIRCH,
Assistant Genl. Supt.

ASSIST. GENL. SUPT.'S OFFICE,
NEEMUCH,
13th July, 1848.

(Copy.)

No. 39.

FROM LIEUTENANT H. WARD,
Assistant Genl. Superintendent.

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL W. H. SLEEMAN,
General Superintendent,

JHANSI,
Dated Camp Jounpore, 12th February, 1848.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 12, of the 24th ultimo, requesting me to inform you of the present state of the colony of Budhuks, on the grant near Goruckpoor, under Dullya Jemadar, and also the names of the persons composing it, and the prospects of its ultimate success.

2. I have lately been over for a few days to visit this grant ; and as nearly two years have elapsed since I last addressed you on the subject, you will, perhaps, excuse my entering fully into its details, thus recording its present progress and future prospects.

3. As the correspondence that has passed concerning this grant, has not, I believe, ever been submitted to you, I beg herewith to hand

you copies of all letters that I find regarding it, so that you may have all the papers, for reference at any future time, before you, in a connected form.

4. First, as regards the numbers of the Budhuk caste, now residing there, I annex (A.) a list of the males of that caste. This list includes some three or four that from youth had never gone on Decoitee expeditions, and this list will annually increase, as other boys grow up to manhood. The residents may be divided into three classes, those that surrendered on terms with Dullya; those that have been released on the security of other Budhuks; and widows, (including the wives of men imprisoned and transported) with their families. The names of the widows I have not had drawn up, but, I believe, the number of widows of the two sorts to be eighteen. The children, I find, have been reckoned without discriminating between those with, and those without fathers, but their total number is twenty-six boys and twelve girls, of all ages.

5. On former occasions, when addressing you on this subject, you may remember how much I complained of the inertness of Dullya, and the little progress he was making, as also of the occasional quarrels between himself and Burreea. In consequence of these quarrels, at my request, the Collector of Goruckpoor was so good as to separate their two shares, giving Burreea 75 beegahs, the remaining 525 continuing in Dullya's name. I confess that hitherto in keeping up Salikram, I had expected more advantage in its forming a point where at once the widows, to whom we were bound to give the means of subsistence, could live, and where also the Budhuks, not in Government employ, could be watched, than in any great hopes of Dullya ever becoming an useful agriculturist. Last year, in fact, I made a proposal to Dullya to accept Government employment, if I could procure it for him in lieu of this grant, which he refused. However, whether stimulated by the withdrawal of the Government allowance, or not, I cannot say, but certainly, this year I have found a very marked improvement, both in the progress the grant has made, and also in the greatly increased contentment of Dullya himself, and all the other residents.

6. In some respects fortune has favored him. The inundations that swamped the greater part of the district spared him, and in addition to this, several very good assamees, who had been washed out of their former holdings, have now come to reside with him. There cannot, I think, be less than twenty families now of the Keywut, (a very hard working race in these parts) Loonyahs, and Pasiés. These men hold their land on low, but slightly increasing rents. I annex (B.) the amount of land-tax that Dullya is assessed at, and which, certainly, is favorable enough.

7. At present on the grant there are standing crops on 68 beegahs, 20 more beegahs are fit for sowing, and 110 more have been cleared of their jungle, and will be, perhaps I should say, ought to be, if the rainy season be not unfavorable, brought into cultivation during the year; more land too is being daily cleared. From what I can learn, the cutting and carrying wood for sale into Goruckpoor, still affords a sufficient subsistence to most of the Decoits, and even those that themselves cultivate land, eke out by the same means, when not occupied on their fields, sufficient to pay their rent, whilst their crops hitherto have supported them, and they may now expect some additional means, as additional land gets under cultivation.

8. Of the land at present under cultivation, rather more than 50 beegahs belong to eleven Budhuks, and Dullya has made allotments to all of his own caste deserving them. I am glad to say even some of the women are beginning, what I may call, a small independence for themselves in that manner; and one point, in which I have this year been much pleased with Dullya, compared with former years, is, that he now, for driving his carts and other similar employments, takes the poorer men of his own caste in preference—a thing I never could get him to do formerly. With increasing prosperity too, his feuds with Burreea have fortunately ceased, and I believe them to be perfectly happy and content; indeed they own as much themselves, and I think with good faith.

9. I speak thus cheerily of the prospects of the grant only with reference to the peculiar position of the individuals. I know that men of more regular and settled habits, would, with the advantage these men have had, have done more; but when we remember the lawless roving mode of life they had long been accustomed to, the great dread their names inspired, and the pride of Dullya as a chief of a confederacy, I do feel that, in reconciling him to his changed position, and in converting banded robbers to industrious and peaceable subjects, the great point has been gained, and the success of the experiment established.

10. The great difficulty Dullya has to contend with, is the very natural dread which his name and former calling inspire. He complains, and I believe, with some reason, that he might get more cultivators, were they not afraid of him, and even the mahajuns in the city refuse him temporary assistance on the same grounds—these difficulties, however, one would think would soon wear off. He is still, personally, less industrious, and, I may add, enterprising than I could wish; but his conduct in that respect now, is a marked improvement on what it has hitherto been.

11. As regards, what after all must be considered the great object, viz., the chance of these men again taking to Decoitee, I may say that I

have no fear on that head whatever ; indeed they scarce have the power even if they had the wish—the members of the gangs are scattered far and wide, and judging from the small number of those returned to me for misconduct, only six in all, in the course of three years and a half, we must consider that those in the Police discharge their duties properly, and consequently are themselves satisfied. As regards those at the grant, I always have an intelligent Nujeeb on the spot, who makes a daily report to the Magistrate, and it would be impossible for any number to decamp with their families, without his knowing it ; but independently of this, the men that I have had on duty there, at different times, assure me that Dullya himself does not hesitate to compare his present state of ease and safety with the life he had formerly lived in the jungles, when watched and hunted by our parties.

12. The large number of this tribe living together still, though with a different relationship, under their old leader, will certainly prevent their losing entirely their separate language and customs. This is a misfortune perhaps, but it is of the less importance, if, as I believe to be the case, they have lost all desire to resume their former life of violence, and as they settle down, they will lose all pride in their former exploits. Dullya himself is a man of about 45 or 50, a man of remarkably good manners for his station of life, and I think, well disposed and intelligent. It is too very much to his credit that when his gangs were at their prime, he always interfered to prevent his men inflicting unnecessary violence on those he plundered.

13. There is one point I think it right to bring to your notice, namely, the great number of men living at the grant, who have been released on the security of Dullya and Burreea. These men have nearly all been, in their day, active Decoits, and it may, perhaps, be your wish that the number of such men be limited. I anticipate no evils myself from their congregating there, but from taking an interest in the settlement, I may take too sanguine a view of its position—seven of these men lately released, were of the party in the celebrated case, when Maherban and 162 others were arrested in the Behar district in 1820. They expressed their willingness to work if means were afforded them, and I have given each a spade and an axe.

14. The only part of the thing I am myself dissatisfied with, is the children. They certainly work and help their mothers, but I should be glad to see them get a little education, if only to learn to read, write, and cipher. Nearly joining Salikram, there is a grant occupied by Native Christians, on which a Missionary gentleman is about to reside.

15. This gentleman has had the kindness to promise to open a class for the Salikram boys, and to do what he can for them. Possibly a girls' school may also be opened at the same place, in which case I see no reason why our Budhuk girls should not also attend, but I much fear the mothers' scruples would prevent the education of either. Possibly, through Dullya, I may effect this.

16. There is still one point, on which I would wish to have your opinion concerning this grant : this refers to the propriety of entering into some distinct understanding with Dullya, about affording an asylum, on the grant, hereafter, to any men of his former gangs, that surrendered with him, now in Government employ, that may invalid or lose their employment, through ill-health or old age. It may be worthy of consideration, possibly, whether some such scheme might not be adopted.

17. This letter has extended beyond what I had wished, but I feel sure that you take a great interest in this experiment, and will be glad to know its exact position and prospects. During my incumbency of this office, it has occupied much of my time, and given me much trouble; and it is with some little satisfaction that I find myself able to report so favorably of it.

I have, &c.

(Sd.) H. WARD,
Assist. Genl. Supt.

AZIMGHUR, CAMP JOUNPOOR,
ASSIST. GENL. SUPT.'S OFFICE, }
The 12th February, 1848.

A.

LIST of adult males of the Buduk caste, residing in the Salikram grant, near Goruckpoor, under Dullya Jemadar, and Burreea Sing.

No.	Namea.	Parentage.	On whose land residing.	Date of arrest or surrender.	Sentence.	On whose security released.
1	Dullya Sing, Jemadar .. Burreea	Oree, <i>alias</i> Naika..... Joorawun .....	..... .....	Surrendered, 27th Aug. 1844 Ditto, 16th October, "	Was not committed to the sessions. Ditto ditto.	
5	Narsing	Bheemul	Dullya Sing	Ditto, 27th August, "	Ditto ditto.	
	Bukutbulee	Dhootharee	Ditto	Ditto, ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Nukoola	Tantea	Ditto	Ditto, ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Doorgapurshaud	Mootee	Ditto	Ditto, ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Kala	Rajaram	Ditto	Ditto, 31st ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Bhugloo	Rangolam	Ditto	Ditto, ditto	Ditto ditto.	
10	Gobind	Dhowkul	Ditto	Ditto, ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Kytha	Bheemul	Ditto	Ditto, ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Naika Sing	Gazee, <i>alias</i> Bohor.....	Ditto	Ditto, October, 1816	{ To be imprisoned till he furnish security for future good conduct. Was released, 30th Sept. 1844.	
	Gungadeen	Nidhee	Ditto	Date unknown	Was not committed to the sessions.	
	Buldee	Bussawun	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Gopaul Sing	Dhowkul	Burreea	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto.	
15	Deo Sing	Rangolam, <i>alias</i> Ram- purshaud	Dullya Sing	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Babooram	Jodhun	Ditto	Arrested 8th March, 1844	{ Was under examination in this office when the Buduk gangs came in, when he was released.	
	Langra	Bhowany Deen	Ditto	Ditto, 2nd June "	Ditto ditto.	
	Daveedeen	Tirwa	Ditto	Ditto, ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Runa, <i>alias</i> Randeem {	Rangolam, <i>alias</i> Ram- purshaud	Ditto	Ditto, 15th October "	Ditto ditto.	
20	Pirthee, <i>alias</i> Daveedeen	Jungahal	Burreea	Ditto, 23rd March 1841	{ Was under examination at Luck- now, and released 24th April, 1845.	
	Pirthea	Joorawun	Dullya Sing	Surrendered, 27th Aug. 1844	Was not committed to the sessions.	
	Girdharee	Kheyderoo	Ditto	Ditto, ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Sunkur	Panchooram	Ditto	Arrested, 24th Dec. 1828	{ Was released on security, 7th July, 1841.	

No.	Names.	Parentage.	On whose land residing.	Date of arrest or surrender.	Sentence.	On whose security released.
25	Zalim	Man Sing	Dullya Sing	Arrested, 2nd June, 1842	Was under examination in this office when the Buduk gangs came in, when he was released.	
	Khurga	Uzeer	Burreea	Ditto, 14th Dec. 1828	Was released on security, 14th September, 1840.	
	Tikait.....	Gundhouree Sing	Ditto	{ In the year 1820 was arrested by the Magistrate of Behar, with Mahurban Sing, <i>alias</i> Seetaran, and 161 others	Was sentenced by Sudder Nizamut Adawlut, 12th December, 1821, to imprisonment with labor for seven years, and afterwards to find two securities of 50, for good conduct for 3 years, from the date of release.	
	Daveedeen Sing	Bheekaree Sing	Dullya Sing	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto.	
30	Nurkoo Sing	Jokhla	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Mudhoo Sing	Bodhu	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Boojhawun Sing	Hicha Sing	Burreea	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Chan Sing	Khodgee	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto.	
35	Gindharee Sing	Keswar	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto.	
	Koonjul	Rughobir	Ditto	Surrendered, 13th Augt. 1847	.....
	Purgass Sing	Soomundun	Dullya Sing .....	.....	Was arrested at Lucknow, and released for want of evidence and come of himself to Sahikran, on the 13th September, 1847, when he has been made over to Dullya, Je-madar.	
	Sumput ....	.....	Ditto .....	.....	Lived for some years at Lucknow, with a relative there, and has never been on Decoitee. He lives with Dullya, to whom he has been made over.	

AZINGHUR, CAMP JOUNPOOR,
Assist. Genl. Supt.'s Office, the 12th February, 1848.

(Sd.) H. WARD,
Assist. Genl. Supt.

(Copy.)

No. 1.

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL W. H. SLEEMAN,

General Superintendent, Lucknow.

SIR,

I have the honor to bring to your notice that I have lately been over to Goruckpoor to look at the Budhuks on the grant, and to see how they were all getting on.

2. I regret to say that, in some respects, I have a less favourable account to give of them this year than I had last. The past has been a very sickly season, and the country has suffered much from drought, no rain having fallen since early in September; the consequence has been, that many of the cultivators have died, others have left their lands, the Budhuks themselves have been ill, and their crops have, to some extent, failed. We must be prepared for the chances of bad seasons—and, I imagine, few seasons are as bad as this last one has been. In other respects, however, I see no reason to think ill of the settlement. In spite of the bad season, the men themselves seem happy and contented, working much better, and more willingly than they did. The women appear to be good needle women, and get ample employment as such in the district. Many of the Budhuks are now cultivating on their own account, and have also their own carts. I believe there now are actually under cultivation 87 biggahs, and there are other 70 cleared, that will be brought into cultivation next year, unless there again be a drought. Attached to the grant and belonging to the Budhuks, are 28 carts.

3. I trust you will deem this account of the settlement a satisfactory one.

I have, &c.,

(Sd.) H. WARD,
Assist. Genl. Supt.

AZIMGHUR,
ASSIST. GENL. SUPT.'S OFFICE,
The 17th January, 1849.

General List of Budhuk Dacoits, who have received the promise of a conditional pardon,

No.	Name.	Parentage.	Age.	Caste.	PLACE OF	
					Village.	Pergunnah.
1	Bunsee, '	Sowae	35	Budhuk Rathore,	Googong,	Mahemdee, ...
	Purmolah,	ditto,	35	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Hajaree,	Tooleeah,	50	Gohlouth Budhuk,	ditto,	_____
	Purnessree Doss,	Gobind,	50	Brahmin,	Tandoos,	Churgae,
5	Subsook,	Bhowanie,	63	Kular,	Lalpore,	Kunoje,
	Ramnauth,	Nyusookh,	40	Brahmin,	Seegaon,	Etawah,
	Totaram,	Pirthee,	50	Budhuk Charun,	Utoowah,	_____
	Kesree Jumadar,	Lucheeram,	40	Ditto Bhatee,	Manickpoor, ...	Luchmun Gurh,
	Dewah,	Dhooleeah,	40	Ditto Chowhan,	Googaon,	Mahemdee, ...
10	Seetah,	ditto,	44	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Goman,	Pirthee,	50	Budhuk Gahlouth,	ditto,	_____
	Mungulla,	Ram Sing,	30	Ditto Chowhan,	ditto,	_____
	Arjoon Jumadar,	Pirthee,	55	Ditto Solunkee,	ditto,	_____
	Assa,	Oodah,	45	ditto,	Talee,	Kurowlee,
15	Bijaeepaul,	Doodheea,	35	ditto,	Koonda,	_____
	Nowlah,	Dullea,	26	Budhuk Rathore,	Dheera Jugdis- poor,	Khyrabad,
	Soojana,	Kanahee,	27	Budhuk Solunkee,	Kemara,	_____
	Bijaeepaul,	Buljeeta,	25	Ditto Rathore,	Mooraul,	Kurowlee,
	Chunderooa,	Huttee Sing,	20	Ditto Solunkee,	Dautkapoorooa,	_____
20	Goordhunah,	Oomedah,	25	Ditto Bhatee,	Googaon,	Mahemdee,
	Mehurban,	Urjoon,	16	Ditto Solunkee,	ditto,	_____
	Balkishoon,	Laloo,	20	Ditto Bhatee,	Oojhapoora, ...	Kurowlee,
	Soorjah,	Dullea,	30	Ditto Rathore,	Dheera Jugdis- poor,	Khyrabad,
	Heera Sing,	Ram Sing,	21	Ditto Bhatee,	Kemara,	_____
25	Mooseca,	ditto,	35	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Indur,	Urjoon,	25	Ditto Solunkee,	Googaon,	Mahemdee,
	Gooneera,	Chipreeah,	45	Ditto Rathore,	ditto,	_____
	Mulhora,	Dhooleeah,	28	Ditto Solunkee,	Titwaree Koonda,	Kurowlee,
	Kullah,	Rorha,	22	Ditto Bhatee,	ditto,	_____
30	Doonda,	Giasea,	30	Ditto Powar,	ditto,	_____
	Khema,	Koondna,	32	Ditto Chowhan,	ditto,	_____
	Kurnah,	Mooseca,	25	Ditto Bhatee,	ditto,	_____
	Mohunah,	Hutteea,	25	ditto,	Koondaa,	Tatowaree,
	Bhyro,	Hameera,	30	Bagree Bhatee,	Kurowlee,	_____
35	Bokhara,	Kareea,	25	Ditto Solunkee,	ditto,	_____
	Indur,	Bhowanee,	35	Budhuk Bagra Bhatee,	ditto,	_____
	Pursha,	Nutha,	45	Ditto Chowhan,	ditto,	_____
	Debee Sing,	Bhikka,	40	Ditto Rathore,	ditto,	_____
	Buldewa,	Sanaheeram,	32	Ditto Solunkee,	ditto,	_____
40	Hurreeram,	Pirtheea,	60	Bagra Bhatee,	ditto,	_____
	Beerbul,	Anundram,	50	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Fuckeera,	Toujeea,	30	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Hurlaul,	Chunga,	45	Ditto Chowhan,	ditto,	_____
	Roy Chund,	Buhadoor,	80	Ditto Bhatee,	ditto,	_____
45	Cheyna Thokedar,	Dewah,	40	ditto,	ditto,	_____

under the sanction of Government, dated 27th June and 29th July 1839, for the year 1847.

RESIDENCE.				
Zillah.	Final order and date of Sentence.	Where made Approver.	REMARKS.	
Lucknow, .....	.....	By the Commissioner for the Suppression of Dacoitee, at Mooradabad,	Present at Jubbulpoor.	
ditto, .....	.....	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto, .....	.....	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Jalone,	Imprisonment for life, 6th April 1835,	By Captain C. Brown, at Jubbulpoor,	ditto ditto.	
Furruckabad,	ditto,	By the Commissioner of Dacoitee, at Mooradabad,	ditto ditto.	
Mynpooree,	Ditto, 22nd June 1840,	By Captain C. Brown, at Jubbulpoor,	ditto ditto.	
Lucknow,	Ditto, 29th December 1841,	By the Commissioner of Dacoitee, at Mooradabad,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 4th June 1842,	By Captain Birch, at Nusseerabad,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 6th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	By Major Graham, at Agra,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 6th July 1842,	By Captain Birch, at Nusseerabad,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 6th January 1846, ...	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Kurowlee,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 10th January 1846,...	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Lucknow,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Gwalior,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Kurowlee,	Ditto, 13th January 1846,...	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Lucknow,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Died, 24th April 1848.	
Kurowlee,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Present at Jubbulpoor.	
Lucknow,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Gwalior,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Lucknow,	Ditto, 15th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 20th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Kurowlee,	Ditto, 21st January 1846,...	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 22nd ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 23rd ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 24th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 27th November 1846, ..	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Bhurtpoor,	Ditto, 12th November 1845, ..	By the Commissioner of Dacoitee,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 2nd May 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 3rd October 1845, ...	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 16th May 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 12th November 1845, ..	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 28th April 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto ditto, 27th May 1846, ..	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Ditto, 12th November 1845, ..	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	

No.	Name.	Parentage.	Age.	Caste.	PLACE OF	
					Village.	Pergunnah.
46	Indur,	Chandoo,	50	Bagra Bhatee,	Kurowlee,	Tatowaree,
	Pancheea,	Bejah,	60	Ditto Powar,	ditto,	_____
	Mohunah,	Pemah,	24	Ditto Bhatee,	ditto,	_____
	Bijoy Sing,	Natha,	40	Ditto Solunkee,	ditto,	_____
50	Ruteeram,	Oodah,	65	Ditto Chowhan,	ditto,	_____
	Bhowanir,	Donga,	25	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Nowul,	Kareea,	22	Ditto Solunkee,	ditto,	_____
	Newajee,	ditto,	30	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Toolseeram,	Hurreeram,	25	Ditto Bhatee,	ditto,	_____
55	Kesreeah,	Adopted son of Ram Sing,	24	Ditto Chowhan,	ditto,	_____
	Buksha,	Laul Sing,	42	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Beerbul, ...	Deojee,	45	Ditto Solunkee,	ditto,	_____
	Umur Sing,	Chooramun,	60	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Khoman, ...	Moolah,	22	Ditto Powar,	ditto,	_____
60	Gopaul,	Pirtheea,	35	Ditto Chowhan,	ditto,	_____
	Aukheram,	Rutteeram,	22	Bagra Solunkee,	ditto,	_____
	Kullah,	Jullah,	50	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Mohunah,	Debee Sing,	24	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Buctawur,	Hoolasee,	40	ditto,	Jugdispoor, ...	_____
65	Gungoo,	Ghassee,	50	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Ramhune,	Oodey Sing,	30	ditto,	Khanabudush, ..	_____
	Chutoorbhooj,	Doodia,	35	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Musst. Mano,	Wife of Ramhurree, ...	30	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Hunsa,	Alum,	45	ditto,	Kurowlee,	_____
70	Gazee,	Pirthee,	42	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Khereeah,	Madho,	30	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Chunderbhan,	Seetaram,	20	Budhuk,	Khanabudush, ..	_____
	Nahureea,	Hozaree,	45	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Rayah,	Bacha,	50	Kunjur,	ditto,	_____
75	Brijlail,	Dhoolceah,	30	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Jungur,	Lupecha,	45	ditto,	ditto,	_____
	Walee Bux,	Luskurree,	32	Rathore,	ditto,	_____
	Chunda,	Kesheea,	46	Budhuk,	ditto,	_____
	Musta,	Nusseeba,	51	Ditto Rahtore,	ditto,	_____
80	Gomane,	Abdane,	50	Dabee,	ditto,	_____
	Runjeet or Gungadeen,	Rugbur,	35	Chowhan,	ditto,	_____
	Raorah,	Rutteea,	36	Budhuk Rahtore,	ditto,	_____
	Hurdewah,	Bulleea,	45	Budhuk,	ditto,	_____
	Nusseeb Geer,	Badleea,	30	Chowhan,	ditto,	_____
85	Gunesh,	Nathoo,	40	Gahlout,	ditto,	_____
	Toolsee,	Matroo,	60	Powar,	ditto,	_____
	Debee,	Gujooa,	66	Soolunkee,	ditto,	_____
	Sahwoteea,	Rutteeram,	50	Rahtore,	ditto,	_____
	Deenah,	Chella of Kulloo,	78	Rahtore Budhuk,	ditto,	_____
90	Sewdeen Gir,	Dullah Gir,	35	Gosain,	ditto,	_____
	Mohun,	Nuhreea,	40	Bhatee,	ditto,	_____

RESIDENCE.	Final order and date of Sentence.	Where made Approver.	REMARKS.
Zillah.			
Bhurtpoor,	Imprisonment for life, 12th November 1845,	By the Commr. of Dacoitee,	Present at Jubbulpoor.
ditto,	Ditto, 27th May 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 16th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 12th November 1845,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 27th May 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 12th November 1845,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 28th April 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 27th May 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 12th November 1845,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 2nd May 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 13th October 1845,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 12th November 1845,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 2nd May 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 11th November 1845,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 24th October 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 16th May 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Lucknow,	Ditto, 24th November 1838,	By the Assistant at Lucknow,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	This approver not yet committed,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Agra,	Imprisonment for life, 23rd November, 1841,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Alwar,	Ditto, 13th June 1845,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	This woman not yet committed,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Bhurtpoor,	This approver not yet committed,	By the Commissioner at Delhi,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Imprisonment for life, 25th November, 1845,	By the Commr. of Dacoitee,	ditto ditto.
Indore,	Ditto for 14 years, 25th March, 1846,	By Captain Harris,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto for life, 2nd March 1838,	By Captain Brown,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 25th October 1844,	By the Assistant at Indore,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	This approver not yet committed,	Ditto ditto at Nagpoor,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Imprisonment for life, 14th October 1841,	By the Assistant at Lucknow,	Present at Lucknow.
ditto,	Ditto, 1st November 1841,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 8th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 19th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 29th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 2nd December 1841,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Lucknow,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 4th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 9th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 16th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 4th January 1842,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 5th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.

No.	Name.	Parentage.	Age.	Caste.	PLACE OF	
					Village.	Pergunnah.
92	Phool Sing,	Kishree,	55	Solunkee,	Khanabudush, ..	Tatowaree,
	Puma <i>alias</i> Pemah, ...	Munga,	35	Rahtore,	_____	_____
	Bussawun,	Doorjun,	47	Budhuk,	_____	_____
95	Abhoy Sing,	Toolseeram,	30	Ditto Jaut,	_____	_____
	Poorun, ...	Mandhata,	32	Marwaree or Jaut,	_____	_____
	Sewdeen,	Sookhlaul, .....	...	Koormee,	_____	_____
	Goverdhun,	Dheema,	32	Chowhan,	_____	_____
	Gopaul,	Man Sing,	42-44	Rahtore,	_____	_____
100	Khooshal or Kesho, ...	Hunsa,	61-62	Chowhan,	_____	_____
	Bhimma,	Gungaram,	27-28	Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Runjeet <i>alias</i> Mano, ...	Pirthee Sing,	70	ditto,	_____	_____
	Dan Sha,	Nuthoo,	28-29	Powar,	_____	_____
	Ram Sing,	Pirthee,	40	Budhuk,	_____	_____
105	Mohun Doss,	Pirthee,	30	Gahlouth,	_____	_____
	Bickao,	Mehurban,	25	Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Mohajet,	Bhimra or Runjeet,	51	Rahtore,	_____	_____
	Bhowaneedeem <i>alias</i>					
	Bhujja,	Bhyro or Jorawur,	50	Bagra Chowhan,	_____	_____
	Seetaram,	Hem Sing,	51	Brahmin,	_____	_____
110	Dhoorput,	Thoree,	27	Dabee,	_____	_____
	Drigpaul,	Budloo,	30-31	Chowhan,	_____	_____
	Doonda,	Kanaheea,	35	Charun Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Ramdeen Pahlooa,	Omraw,	19-20	Koormee,	_____	_____
	Mongul Khan,	Soobhan Khan,	32	Puthan,	_____	_____
115	Rampershad or Ramgo-					
	lam,	Munsa <i>alias</i> Hunsa, ...	45	Chowhan,	_____	_____
	Debee,	Rampershaud,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Sewdeen,	Bachooa,	20-22	Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Birmah,	Ram Sing or Hurreea, ...	30	Powar,	_____	_____
	Johoreea, Junior,	Mobaruck <i>alias</i> Newal,	55	Charun,	_____	_____
120	Buhhootee <i>alias</i> Heera					
	Sing,	Kunahee,	28	Rahtore,	_____	_____
	Toolsee,	Suldewa,	25	Gahlouth Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Halnah,	Boodha,	28	Rahtore Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Dyaram,	Hurree Sing,	25	Powar,	_____	_____
	Pirthee,	Boodha,	30	Rahtore,	_____	_____
125	Dhowkul,	Jowahir,	35	ditto,	_____	_____
	Abdal Khan,	Emam Khan,	45	Mewatee,	_____	_____
	Heera,	Kesho,	25	Charun,	_____	_____
	Nundah,	Jey Sookh,	60	Chowhan,	_____	_____
	Omedah,	Deenah,	30	Rahtore,	_____	_____
130	Motee,	Heera,	41	ditto,	_____	_____
	Salaroo,	Jodhun,	32	Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Dalick,	Newul,	26	Powar,	_____	_____
	Heera Sing,	Baboo <i>alias</i> Runjeet, ...	33	Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Punchum,	Hameera,	22	Dabhee,	_____	_____
135	Hurreeram,	Dholah,	31	Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Rateeram,	Goomamee,	61	Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Hamedra,	Pacha,	61	Dabhee,	_____	_____
	Jemadar,	Sewahy,	31	Chowhan,	_____	_____
	Rampaul,	Hazaree,	29	Dabhee,	_____	_____
140	Luchmun,	Pacha,	45	ditto,	_____	_____
	Buctawar,	Gureeba,	27	Powar,	_____	_____
	Kullah,	Ramchundereea,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Hutteh Sing,	Oodah,	32	Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Khazaneeah,	Newajee,	32	Marwaree,	_____	_____

No.	Name.	Parentage.	Age.	Caste.	PLACE OF	
					Village.	Pergunnah.
145	Sew Sing,	Khyratee,	30	Rahtore,	Khanabudush,...	Tatowaree,
160	Badul,	Sewah,	50	Chowhan,	_____	_____
	Sectaram,	Tara Jemadar,	33	Dabhee,	_____	_____
	Tirbhowun,	Bhujja,	22	Charun,	_____	_____
	Sehwun,	Badul,	32	Soobunsee,	_____	_____
	Gungaram,	Deena,	26	Rahtore,	_____	_____
	Debee,	Deenah,	20	ditto,	_____	_____
	Pamah,	Runjeebah,	60	Solunkee,	_____	_____
165	Mooktaul,	Kanahaece,	20	Rahtore,	_____	_____
	Sanwarbah,	Jeetah,	25	Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Gurreebah,	Daleea,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Dussasun,	Bunobash,	35	Gahlouth,	_____	_____
	Jehan,	Bedichund,	50	Rahtore,	_____	_____
160	Dyaram,	Bukshee,	45	Gahlouth,	_____	_____
	Ruteerah,	Biktah, .....	...	Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Sookha,	Meraee,	36	Chamar,	_____	_____
	Manooa,	Bukshee,	55	Guhlouth,	_____	_____
	Gerascea Jew,	Tateea,	60	Bhat or Kunjur,	_____	_____
165	Kokatee,	Nilkunt,	35	ditto,	_____	_____
	Bunsee,	Moordareea,	60	ditto,	_____	_____
	Ulfine,	Nakedar,	35	ditto,	_____	_____
	Kunkeea,	Nursoo,	38	ditto,	_____	_____
	Bhow <i>alias</i> Unobe, ...	Rungoo,	65	ditto,	_____	_____
170	Malchund <i>alias</i> Govinda,	Patungir,	46	Kurun,	_____	_____
	Gobinda <i>alias</i> Gopee-	Bhoja,	51	Koonja,	_____	_____
	chand,				_____	_____
	Gurreeba <i>alias</i> Hujjoo,	Luchmun,	22	Koolhatee,	_____	_____
	Siddoo,	Akrum,	31	Bhat,	_____	_____
175	Kesureeah,	Baleeah,	40	ditto,	_____	_____
	Jugdeea,	Heeramun,	31	ditto,	_____	_____
	Ismail,	Dullya,	61	Bhat Balo,	_____	_____
	Allyja,	Chamkureea,	60	ditto,	_____	_____
	Sarwan,	Lupecha,	50	Khunjur Saseea Bhat,...	_____	_____
180	Gunput Raw,	Dungur <i>alias</i> Mullah,...	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Khunjeer,	Hunmateea,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Jungee,	Deo,	40	ditto,	_____	_____
	Umur Sing,	Gybee,	35	Budhuk Powar,	Burrye,	Subulgurh,
	Sudaram,	Nundeam,	32	ditto,	Gureelah,	
185	Cheynah,	Khoossaul, .....	...	Bagra Bhatee,	Manickpoor Ko- tra,	_____
	Heeranund,	Ghinsa,	25	Budhuk ditto,	_____	_____
	Neyiha <i>alias</i> Khoossaul,	Bhugwan,	50	Ditto Powar,	Burrye,	_____
	Kulleean <i>alias</i> Khooman,	Debee Sing,	25	Bagra ditto,	Umbah,	_____
	Budun Sing,	Moteelaal,	45	Budhuk Charun,	Gidwaree,	_____
	Moha Sing,	Dataram,	35	Ditto Bhatee,	Sumary,	_____
	Budleh,	Bughna,	25	Bhisty,	Nyka Jhurna,...	_____
	Tooliah,	Dyah,	45	Budhuk Charun,	Manickpoor Ko- tra,	_____
190	Luchmun,	Umur Sing,	20	ditto,	Burrye,	_____
	Laul Sing <i>alias</i> Ramdeen,	Mohunlal,	26	ditto,	Gidwaree,	_____

No.	Name.	Parentage.	Age.	Caste.	PLACE OF	
					Village.	Pergunnah.
192	Jeychund,	Nyn Sookh,	35	Bagra Powar,	Manickpoor Ko- tra,	Subulghur,
	Surdarah,	Newajee, .....	...	Ditto Bhatee,	ditto,	_____
	Heera Sing,	Nundeam,	35	Budhuk Rhatore,	Googaon,	_____
195	Buhadooreea,	Nutha,	30	Dhandul ditto,	Khanabadush,...	_____
	Doolaroy,	Madeea,	35	Rhatore ditto,	Manickpoor Ko- tra,	_____
	Khooman,	Suroop Sing,	30	Aheer,	Soomere Gunge,	_____
	Rutteerae,	Buctah,	30	Bagra Solunkee,	Googaon,	_____
	Dulthulmun,	Bundhoo,	30	Kaet now Bagra,	ditto,	_____
200	Māneea,	Seetaram,	40	Meenaka Gote,	Medawur,	_____
	Daneeaa,	Huttoo,	35	ditto,	Jalawas,	_____
	Ram Kishoon,	Nahareea,	36	Bagra Dabhee,	Manickpoor Ko- tra,	_____
	Ram Laul,	Bhuggah,	42	Ditto Dhandul,	_____	_____
	Sewah,	Ganglah,	30	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
205	Birjah,	Balwah,	25	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
	Zalim Sing,	Gora Sing,	40	Soorujbunsee,	_____	_____
	Mydha Sing,	Rutun Sing,	60	Dabhee Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Runjeet <i>alias</i> Duljeet,	Hawidar,	30	Solunkee ditto,	_____	_____
	Sowul Sing,	Bekharee,	60	ditto,	_____	_____
210	Buldewah,	Josee,	50	Charun ditto,	_____	_____
	Sewdeen <i>alias</i> Soogreem,	Kesho <i>alias</i> Mano,	40	Soolunkee ditto,	_____	_____
	Medai,	Hurkoo,	20	Kahar,	_____	_____
	Bhowaneedeem,	Budlah,	25	Segalkhore,	_____	_____
	Sewdeen,	Dawn,	25	ditto,	_____	_____
215	Duleea Sing,	Oree <i>alias</i> Naika,	40	Soorujbunsee,	_____	_____
	Pirtheea,	Jorawun,	60	ditto,	_____	_____
	Girdharee,	Khedeyroo,	20	Budhuk Chohan,	_____	_____
	Nar Sing,	Bheemul,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Bukutbulee,	Doodbareh,	50	ditto,	_____	_____
220	Nukoola,	Tanteea,	12	ditto,	_____	_____
	Doorgapershaud,	Motee,	40	ditto,	_____	_____
	Kalah,	Rajaram,	13	ditto,	_____	_____
	Bhugloo,	Ramgolam,	12-18	ditto,	_____	_____
	Govind,	Dhoukul,	16	Soorujbunsee,	_____	_____
225	Kytha,	Bheemul,	25	ditto,	_____	_____
	Indurjeet Sing Jr.,	Kouree,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Bunsee,	Jorawun,	25	ditto,	_____	_____
	Rampershaud,	Kodehla,	16	ditto,	_____	_____
	Debedeen,	Purwanea,	22	ditto,	_____	_____
230	Buchraj,	Dhurmpaul,	30	Kama Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Bunsgopaul,	Rissal,	20	ditto,	_____	_____
	Budda,	Bhyro,	25	Charun ditto,	_____	_____
	Mugun Sing,	Budda,	31	ditto,	_____	_____
	Khoorhun,	Duhpaul,	18	ditto,	_____	_____
235	Debee Sing,	Cheytt Sing,	18	Soorujbunsee,	_____	_____

RESIDENCE.	Final order and date of Sentence.		Where made Approver.	REMARKS.
Zillah.				
Alwur,	Imprisonment for life, 18th January 1842,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at		
ditto,	Not known,	Agra,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police	Present at Nusseerabad.
Lucknow,	Imprisonment for life, 8th February 1841 and 17th March 1841,	ditto ditto,		
ditto,	Ditto for 14 years, 17th March 1841,	ditto ditto,	In the Gwalior Tooman.	
		ditto ditto,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.	
Alwur,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Oude,	Imprisonment for life, 8th February 1841,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Lucknow,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Present at Lucknow.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.	
Tijarah,	Ditto for 11 years, in 1844,	ditto ditto,	Present at Nusseerabad.	
ditto,	Ditto for 6 years. ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
Alwur,	Ditto for life, 15th January 1841,	ditto ditto,	Agra Jail.	
ditto,	Ditto, 13th July 1841,	ditto ditto,	Mynpooree Jail.	
ditto,	Ditto, 12th November 1845,	By Captain Ellis,	Present at Agra.	
ditto,	Ditto, 2nd May 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	Not yet committed,	By the Commissioner of Da- coitee,	Transferred to Purneah, for employment in the district Police.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Hoshungabad district.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Present at Lucknow.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Transferred to Purneah, for employment in the district Police.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Nujeeb at Azimghur.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	With Dullya on the Goruckpoor grant.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Duffadar of Nujeebs at Azimghur.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Nujeeb at Azimghur.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Employed in the Police of the Benares district.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.	

No.	Name.	Parentage.	Age.	Caste.	PLACE OF	
					Village.	Pergunnah.
236	Josee,	Koollumn,	20	Soorujbunsee,	Manickpoor Ko- tra,	Subulghur,
	Heeralal,	Omrao,	20	ditto,		
	Amrooth,	Rajkurn,	30	Chohan Budhuk,		
	Jokhun,	Mindanee,	30	ditto,		
240	Lukurtour,	Rajoo,	16	ditto,		
	Ramchurn,	Munsa,	12	Soorujbunsee,		
	Dance Sing,	Mehumean Sing,	25	ditto,		
	Peergolam,	Bhuchneea,	20	ditto,		
	Dooneeah,	Kick,	30	ditto,		
245	Motee,	Boodha,	18	Chohan Budhuk,		
	Goolzar,	Dhowpaul,	20	Dabhee ditto,		
	Debee Sing,	Bhowanee Sing,	18	Chohan ditto,		
	Chetaee,	Girdharee Sing,	16	ditto,		
	Bwekhundee,	Tharoo,	22	Soorujbunsee,		
250	Byjoo <i>alias</i> Byjoonath,	Bussunt,	30	ditto,		
	Kerooa,	Luckha,	22	Powar Budhuk,		
	Deen,	Lukhaee,	30	ditto,		
	Bunka,	Bheemun,	25	Dabhee ditto,		
	Milkoo,	Heenjah,	25	ditto,		
255	Ghoongehee,	ditto,	24	ditto,		
	Bejaie,	Oree,	18	Chohan ditto,		
	Dhoorja,	Lutee,	20	ditto,		
	Buchooa,	Sewchurn,	20	ditto,		
	Koombhoo Kurn,	Letteh,	20	ditto,		
260	Kulla,	Sindheea,	25	ditto,		
	Oodha Sing Jemadar, ...	Munsa,	30	Soorujbunsee,		
	Ram Sing <i>alias</i> Ramo,	Deyalee,	20	ditto,		
	Bhowaneepershad,	Motee,	30	Chohan Budhuk,		
	Lackha,	Dheera,	30	Dabee ditto,		
265	Raidoo,	Kulunder,	35	Soorujbunsee,		
	Koonjlah,	Raidoo,	12	ditto,		
	Surubeet,	Chuttur,	30	ditto,		
	Mungul Sing,	Baboo Ram,	18	Chohan Budhuk,		
270	Gujadthur,	Chuttur,	30	Soorujbunsee,		
	Matadeen,	Khemai,	24	ditto,		
	Gungadeen,	Bhoop Sing,	16	ditto,		
	Bhugun,	Duljeet Sing,	15	Chohan Budhuk,		
	Abhy Sing,	Dhurmo,	15	Soorujbunsee,		
	Dullah,	Newlayee,	29	ditto,		
275	Bismah,	Ramdya,	25	ditto,		
	Ramjeeun Sing,	Soolaman, .....	...	Dabhee Budhuk,		
	Joraur Sing,	Ajrail,	25	Soorujbunsee,		
	Manickchand,	Toondeh,	30	ditto,		
	Chooramun,	Arjoen,	26	ditto,		
280	Busawun Sing,	Nuseebrae,	22	Kama Budhuk,		
	Bhogue,	Mungullee,	40	Dabhee ditto,		
	Panchoo,	Kirpah,	25	Kama ditto,		
	Omraw,	Buldee,	30	Chohan ditto,		
	Punchum,	Joahir,	22	Kama ditto,		
285	Nirput,	Dureeaw,	22	Soolunkee ditto,		
	Urjoon Sing,	Man Sing,	22	Chohan ditto,		

No.	Name.	Parentage.	Age.	Caste.	PLACE OF	
					Village.	Pergumnah.
287	Goordut,	Kulundur,	25	Soorujbunsee,	Manickpoor Ko- tra,	Subulghur,
	Ramkissen,	Dhekloo,	20	Kama Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Goolzar,	Chuthur,	35	Soorujbunsee,	_____	_____
290	Dureear Sing,	Sona Sing,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Koombhokurun,	Mota Sing,	25	Dabhee Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Buktawur Sing,	Sooltan Sing,	27	Powar ditto,	_____	_____
	Bejeyraj,	ditto,	27	ditto,	_____	_____
	Sooga Sing,	Soondheea,	16-17	Chohan ditto,	_____	_____
295	Bolakee,	Chedee,	29	Soorujbunsee,	_____	_____
	Soorujbulee,	Bhuggun,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Rughnath <i>alias</i> Ragho,	Bhoojee,	30	Kama Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Hunsa,	Sadoleea,	40	Sokunkee ditto,	_____	_____
	Gooman,	Gindowah,	30	Chohan ditto,	_____	_____
300	Motee,	Letee,	20	ditto,	_____	_____
	Ghirao,	Chedee, junior,	19	Soorujbunsee,	_____	_____
	Choteea,	Chaitrae,	18	ditto,	_____	_____
	Nunkoo,	Laloo,	20	ditto,	_____	_____
	Ahlad Sing,	Dyalee,	20	ditto,	_____	_____
305	Ruttun Sing,	Ekteewar Sing,	30	Dabhee Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Nirbhy Sing,	Dhurmo,	16	ditto,	_____	_____
	Burree Sing,	Jorawun Sing,	60	ditto,	_____	_____
	Omrao <i>alias</i> Bhowa- needeen,	Koodelah,	25	ditto,	_____	_____
	Laljee,	Kaseeram,	20	ditto,	_____	_____
310	Mungul Sing,	Kasee,	17	ditto,	_____	_____
	Naick Sing <i>alias</i> Oree,	Ghazee <i>alias</i> Bhoora, ...	50	ditto,	_____	_____
	Gungadeen,	Nedhee,	18	Soorujbunsee,	_____	_____
	Buldee,	Busawun,	18	ditto,	_____	_____
	Gopaul,	Dhowkul,	18	ditto,	_____	_____
315	Deo Sing,	Ramgolam <i>alias</i> Ram- pershad,	18	ditto,	_____	_____
	Babooram,	Jodhun,	23	ditto,	_____	_____
	Langreh,	Bhowandeen,	23	ditto,	_____	_____
	Debeedeen,	Tirhwa,	18	Chohan Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Runna Sing <i>alias</i> Ram- deen,	Ramgolam <i>alias</i> Ram- pershad,	18	Lodhee,	_____	_____
320	Pirthee <i>alias</i> Debeedeen,	Mungal,	25	Soorujbunsee,	_____	_____
	Sunkur Sing,	Panchooram <i>alias</i> Tara,	25	Dabhee Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Zalim Sing,	Man Sing,	30	Soorujbunsee,	_____	_____
	Dhowtal Sing,	Baboo Sing,	18	Chohan Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Kheergah,	Woseer,	25	Bhatee,	_____	_____
325	Purtab Sing,	Moora Sing,	30	Dabhee Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Tikaet,	Gindoree Sing,	26	Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Debeedeen Sing,	Bheekaree Sing,	50	ditto,	_____	_____
	Nurkoo Sing,	Joklah,	45	ditto,	_____	_____
	Madho Sing,	Boodhee,	48	ditto,	_____	_____
330	Bojhawun Sing,	Bhaja Sing,	55	ditto,	_____	_____

[illegible]

No.	Name.	Parentage.	Age.	Caste.	PLACE OF	
					Village.	Pargunnah.
331	Cheyu Sing,	Bhogee,	24	Budhuk,	Manickpoor Ko- ta,	Subalghur,
335	Girdharee Sing,	Keshna Sing,	48	ditto,	_____	_____
	Purgas Sing,	Lewundun,	23	ditto,	_____	_____
	Koonjah,	Rughoobur Sing,	31	ditto,	_____	_____
	Sumpul,	ditto,	24	ditto,	_____	_____
	Gungaram,	Sudaram,	55	Chohan,	Dulkees,	Nowson,
340	Deena alias Kheesalee,	Bhoondee,	40	Solunkee Budhuk,	Bussuntapoor, ...	_____
	Mahtab,	Ajbal,	44	ditto,	Googson, ...	Mahamdee,
	Motee,	Tharoo,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Soomere,	Rutteeram,	50	ditto,	_____	_____
	Bubhootee Sing,	Than Sing,	55	Thakoor Bhughelah, ...	Ungee,	Kunoje,
345	Balmakoond,	Asha,	30	Powar Budhuk,	Bussuntapoor, ...	Powah,
	Hurdeah,	Inda,	40	Bhatee,	Tatwace,	Koonda,
	Fansee,	Arphia,	30	Kunjur,	Khanabadush, ..	_____
	Meeria,	Nowab,	40	ditto,	_____	_____
	Sekuree,	Dana,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
350	Kurun Sing,	Sew Sing,	44	Bagra Chohan,	_____	_____
	Laljeet,	Hasaree,	60-62	ditto,	_____	_____
	Dhun Sing,	Ramkishon,	40	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
	Lullo,	Koondun,	35	Ditto Chohan,	_____	_____
	Kulleean,	Munsa,	30	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
355	Mukoonda,	Nunda,	28	Ditto Powar,	_____	_____
	Goordyal,	Nirput,	25	Ditto Dhandul,	_____	_____
	Moosah,	Munsa,	45	Budhuk Bhatee,	_____	_____
	Budun Sing,	Rutteeram,	25	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Mulhorah,	Khereea,	48	Bagra Bhatee,	_____	_____
360	Golab Sing,	Dhelah,	25	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____
	Pema,	Mungul,	35	Ditto Chohan,	_____	_____
	Oodeyram,	Sockhdeo,	27	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
	Gopaul,	Tejah,	20	Ditto Chohan,	_____	_____
	Radhakishore,	Ghassee,	40	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
365	Kewlah,	Tejah,	40	ditto,	_____	_____
	Biana,	Fowajee,	25	ditto,	_____	_____
	Bhimma,	ditto,	22	ditto,	_____	_____
	Bhyro,	Pancha,	25	Ditto Powar,	_____	_____
	Moosaram,	Baboo,	22	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
370	Jugdewa,	Bhooreeah,	35	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Umer Sing,	Hasaree,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Gunesh,	Hunooman,	35	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
	Moteeram,	Nynsookh,	28	Ditto Powar,	_____	_____
	Nundoo,	Abhy Sing,	22	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
375	Gungaram,	Johurree,	20	ditto,	_____	_____
	Sookha,	ditto,	35	ditto,	_____	_____
	Kurna,	Koondun,	30	Ditto Chohan,	_____	_____
	Gyan Sing,	Dhul Sing,	25	Budhuk Chohan,	_____	_____
	Koloo,	Rajaram,	22	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
380	Ramchand,	Golaub,	25	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Pannah,	Buhadoor,	32	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
	Mohun Sing,	Oodeyah,	35	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Moteeram,	Tatoo,	50	ditto,	_____	_____

RESIDENCE.			
Zillah.	Final order and date of Sentence.	Where made Approver.	REMARKS.
Alwur,	Imprisonment for 7 years, 12th December 1841,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Azimgur,	With Doolya on the C
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Not yet committed,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Shahjehanpoor, ...	Imprisonment for life, 9th September 1844,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. in Rohilcund,	Present at Shahjehanpoor.
ditto,	ditto,	By ditto at Lucknow,	ditto ditto.
Oude,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	By ditto at Shahjehanpoor, ...	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 20th September 1844, ...	By the Commissioner of Dacoitee, ...	ditto ditto.
Furruckabad,	Ditto, 28th October 1846, ...	By the Superintendent at Jubbulpoor,	ditto ditto.
Shahjehanpoor, ...	Ditto, 29th November 1845, ...	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Shahjehanpoor,	ditto ditto.
Kurrowlee,	Not sentenced,	ditto ditto,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
ditto,	Imprisonment for life, 10th December 1844,	ditto ditto,	Present at Goonah.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 10th ditto 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 3rd October 1845, ...	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Mahoba district.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Present at Jhansee.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Mahoba district.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Jubbulpoor district.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Gwalior Tooman.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Dumoh district.
ditto,	Ditto, 12th November 1845, ...	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Dumoh district.
ditto,	Ditto, 12th ditto 1846,	ditto ditto,	In the Gwalior Tooman.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Dumoh district.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Gwalior Tooman.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Dumoh district.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Jubbulpoor district.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Ditto Mahoba ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Ditto Jubbulpoor ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Gwalior Tooman.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Jubbulpoor district.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Present at Jhansee.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
ditto,	Ditto, 12th ditto 1845,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Dumoh district.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Gwalior Tooman.
ditto,	Ditto, 15th ditto 1841,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Jubbulpoor district.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Gwalior Tooman.
ditto,	Ditto, 2nd May 1841,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Present at Jhansee.

No.	Name.	Parentage.	Age.	Caste.	PLACE OF	
					Village.	Pergunnah.
381	Heeranund,	Naikah,	32	Budhuk Chohan,	Khanabadush, ..	Koonda,
	Joahir,	Joorah,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Bokhara,	Kooner Paul,	25	Ditto Powar,	_____	_____
	Mohun Sing,	Duleep Sing,	40	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____
385	Laljeao,	Jugdewa,	27	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Nuckchedah,	ditto,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Soojan Jemadar,	Paopee,	40	ditto,	_____	_____
	Motee,	Roopah,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Joorah,	Motee,	25	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____
390	Pirthee,	Futeh,	35	ditto,	_____	_____
	Toga,	Khajaneea,	40	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Pemah,	Hurreea,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Pureah,	Pirthee,	45	Ditto Guhloth,	_____	_____
	Badam,	Bhimma,	40	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____
395	Umur Sing,	Ram Sing,	25	ditto,	_____	_____
	Doolaraee,	Pohpee,	25	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Buctawur,	Buxee Jemadar,	25	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____
	Byreessaul,	Mohura,	20	Ditto Charun,	_____	_____
	Bhoogah,	Rajaram,	35	Ditto Chohan,	_____	_____
400	Newlah,	Oodeya,	40	Ditto Powar,	_____	_____
	Khoosalah,	Lal Sing,	25	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
	Manooa,	Khirga,	50	Ditto Chohan,	_____	_____
	Mohuna,	Bhowanee Jemadar, ...	18	ditto,	_____	_____
	Gonda <i>alias</i> Chowrung,	Dhelaput,	24	Kunjur,	_____	_____
405	Tequa <i>alias</i> Kulwa, ...	Sendhya,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Pennah,	ditto, .....	...	ditto,	_____	_____
	Beendah,	ditto, .....	...	ditto,	_____	_____
	Gungaram,	ditto, .....	...	ditto,	_____	_____
	Buldewah,	ditto, .....	...	ditto,	_____	_____
410	Tejah,	ditto, .....	...	ditto,	_____	_____
	Sohn Sing,	ditto, .....	...	ditto,	_____	_____
	Bhowanee Jemadar, ...	Heera,	45	Bagra Chohan,	Kurowlee,	Kurowlee, ...
	Buckta ditto,	Ghunsama,	50	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____
	Kulla ditto,	Ramkissen,	45	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
415	Girdharee,	ditto,	40	ditto,	_____	_____
	Huttowa,	ditto,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Pancheea,	Chandoo,	35	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Gunasha,	ditto,	35	ditto,	_____	_____
	Oodah,	Bhowany,	20	Ditto Chohan,	_____	_____
420	Indur,	Mumsa,	40	ditto,	_____	_____
	Bhoomleh,	Buckta,	20	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
	Baldeo,	Buxa,	35	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Hurree Sing,	Niranah,	35	ditto,	_____	_____
	Lachmuna,	Datta,	35	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
425	Salgah,	Buxee,	30	Ditto Bhandul,	_____	_____
	Indur,	Khooman,	30	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
	Souppul,	Buckta,	35	Ditto Powar,	_____	_____
	Keshora,	Hurebunda,	20	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Keshora,	Purma,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
430	Newlah,	Ghunsama,	30	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
	Newajee,	Hurree Sing,	35	ditto,	_____	_____

RESIDENCE.	Final order and date of Sentence.		Where made Approver.	REMARKS.
Zillah.				
Kurowlee,	Imprisonment for life, 2nd May 1841.		By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Shahjehanpoor,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	In the Gwalior Tooman.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 27th ditto 1846,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Oude,	Ditto, 12th ditto 1847,		ditto ditto,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	In the Gwalior Tooman.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		By the Commissioner of Dacoitee at Jhansee,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
ditto,	Ditto, 18th ditto,		ditto ditto,	In the Gwalior Tooman.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 12th ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 16th ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	Present at Jhansee.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 25th June 1847,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 27th July ditto,		ditto ditto,	In the Gwalior Tooman.
ditto,	Ditto, 7th August ditto,		ditto ditto,	Present at Jhansee.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	In the Gwalior Tooman.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Kurowlee,	Ditto, 20th January 1846,...		By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Nusseerabad,	Present at Nusseerabad.
ditto,	Ditto, 24th ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 29th October 1844, ...		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, for 14 years, 21st January 1846,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, for 10 years, 24th ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, for life, 21st ditto, ...		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, for 10 years, 24th ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 3 years, 12th ditto, ...		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 14 years, 23rd ditto,...		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 10 years, 22nd ditto,...		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 14 years, ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, for life, 24th ditto 1844,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 7 years, 23rd ditto 1846,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, for life, ditto, ...		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 7 years, 22nd ditto, ...		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, for life, 15th October 1844,		ditto ditto,	Nujeeb at Nusseerabad.
ditto,	Ditto, for 10 years, 30th ditto,		ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, for life, 15th ditto,		ditto ditto,	Present at Nusseerabad.

No.	Name.	Parentage.	Age.	Caste.	PLACE OF	
					Village.	Pergunnah.
432	Kulora,	Nutha,	40	Bagra Dhandul,	Kurowlee, ...	Kurowlee, ...
	Beenda,	Rughoonath,	35	Ditto Chohan,	_____	_____
	Jeita,	Jalim,	60	Bowree Solunkee,	Mewar, ...	Mewar, ...
435	Mana Jemadar,	Beeram,	40	Ditto Dhandhara,	_____	_____
	Galka,	Jalim,	40	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Kana,	Ladoo,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Dullah,	Rama,	30	Ditto Powar,	_____	_____
	Ghasee,	Jhutta,	30	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
440	Bhoora,	Buckta,	25	Bagra Powar,	Kurowlee, ...	Kurowlee, ...
	Hookma,	Galka,	35	Ditto Charun,	Mewar, ...	Mewar, ...
	Dewa,	Heera,	36	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Moteo,	Gunga,	25	Ditto Chohan,	Kurowlee, ...	Kurowlee, ...
	Moola,	Bhoopa,	50	Goojur,	_____	_____
445	Bhugwan,	Lalah,	45	Bowree Solunkee,	Mewar, ...	Mewar, ...
	Tejah,	Ruteea,	40	ditto,	_____	_____
	Jey Sing,	Kulla,	20	Bagra Bhatee,	Kurowlee, ...	Kurowlee, ...
	Chutra,	Joora,	25	Bowree Solunkee,	Mewar, ...	Mewar, ...
	Sewdan Sing Jemadar,	Jey Sing,	28	Meena,	Audeephool, ...	Ranghur, ...
450	Chukore <i>alias</i> Ramsing Jemadar,	Moosalchung,	60	Kunjur Sasee,	Khanabadush, ..	_____
	Hurpershaud,,	Koodella,	22	Soorujbunsee,	_____	_____
	Buchna,	ditto, .....	...	ditto,	_____	_____
	Puran,	Bejoy Sing,	50	Budhuk Solunkee, ...	Sherepore, ...	Jelalabad, ...
	Bureear,	Buljeet,	55	Ditto Rhatore,	Oojhatee, ...	_____
455	Budun Sing,	Sewah,	45	Ditto Charun,	_____	_____
	Umeer Sing,	Khyratee,	35	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____
	Teloke,	Bhyro,	50	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Mohun,	Kanahee,	35	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____
	Totah,	Seetaram,	50	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
460	Pemraj,	Nahareea,	45	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____
	Luchmun,	Debee,	30	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Munsa,	Saduleea,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Nundlal,	Nurgeneea,	45	Ditto Dabee,	_____	_____
	Hameera Sing,	Bunwas or Seetaram, ...	32	Ditto Gulhouth,	_____	_____
465	Ramkurun,	Chunda,	30	Ditto Rhatore,	Aroon, ...	_____
	Raejore,	Bheema,	45	Ditto Powar,	Googaon, ...	Mohumdee, ...
	Mohkour,	Nathoo,	56	ditto,	_____	_____
	Kuleean,	Dheera,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Puran,	Roopa,	35	Ditto Chohan,	_____	_____
470	Kuleean,	Gujooa,	48	Ditto Solunkee,	Behadoornagur,	_____

RESIDENCE.	Final order and date of Sentence.	Where made Approver.	REMARKS.
Zillah.			
Kurowlee,	Imprisonment for life, 8th June 1842,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Nusseerabad,	Present at Nusseerabad.
ditto,	Ditto, for 10 years, 30th October 1844,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Mewar,	Ditto, for life, 6th January 1847,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 5th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Kurowlee,	Ditto, 1st ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Mewar,	Ditto, 31st December 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 1st January 1847, ...	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Kurowlee,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Mewar,	Ditto, for 10 years, 2nd ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, for 7 years, 26th December 1846,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Kurowlee,	Ditto, 31st ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Mewar,	Ditto, 28th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Jeypoor,	Ditto, for 14 years, 28th April 1847,	Ditto at Indore,	Present at Indore.
Malwa,	Transportation for life beyond Sea, 24th April 1847, ...	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Not yet committed,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Azimghur district.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	Jubbulpoor Jail.
Shahjehanpoor, ...	Imprisonment for life, 10th October 1841,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Lucknow,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
Budaon,	Ditto, 11th ditto,	By the Commissioner of Dacoitee at Moradabad, ...	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 12th ditto,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Lucknow,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 9th November ditto, ...	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Bareilly,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 19th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 25th ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Jubbulpoor district.
ditto,	Ditto, 27th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Gwalior,	Ditto, 28th January ditto, ...	By the Commissioner of Dacoitee at Moradabad,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 29th November ditto, ...	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Lucknow,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
ditto,	Ditto, 4th December ditto, ...	By the Commissioner of Dacoitee at Moradabad,	ditto ditto.
Oude,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 6th ditto,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Lucknow,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 10th ditto,	By the Commissioner of Dacoitee at Moradabad,	In the Police of the Jubbulpoor district.
ditto,	ditto,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Lucknow,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
ditto,	Ditto, 16th ditto,	By the Commissioner of Dacoitee at Moradabad,	In the Police of the Jubbulpoor district.

	Name.	Parentage.	Age.	Caste.	PLACE OF	
					Village.	Pergunnah.
	Bunwaree or Kesreea, ..	Adopted son of Dhurma,	30	Budhuk Rhatore,	Behadoornugur,	Mohumdee, ...
	Bhoopeea,	Chunderma,	42	Ditto Solunkee,	Googaon, ...	_____
	Motee <i>alias</i> Gureeba, ..	Adopted son of Nuseeba,	50	Ditto Rhatore,	Dehreea, ...	_____
	Umur Sing,	Runjeet,	33	Ditto Rahtore,	Luloree, ...	_____
475	Mohun,	Madho,	35	ditto,	Maghagurh, ...	Agra, ...
	Goolzar,	Kheydoo,	45	Ditto Chohan,	Bansee, ...	_____
	Motee,	Mohun,	40	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Oodah,	Newal,	35	Ditto Chohan,	_____	_____
480	Bhojah,	Buxee,	26	Ditto Powar,	Googaon, ...	Mohumdee, ...
	Ramdeen,	Hurbuns,	40	Charun,	_____	Byrach, ...
	Ramdeen,	Adjoodheea,	45	Dabhee Budhuk,	_____	_____
	Golaub,	Moteelal,	40	Budhuk Charun,	Goordhunpore, ..	_____
	Mehrab,	Buljeeta,	35	Ditto Powar,	_____	_____
	Purtaub,	Chundua,	42	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____
485	Bholeh,	Gazee,	30	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Motee,	Demul,	16	Kama,	_____	_____
	Jogmul,	Lateh,	30	Budhuk Chohan,	_____	_____
	Lakka Jemadar,	Sadheea,	46	Budhuk,	_____	Allyapore, ...
490	Peethul,	Keshree,	40	Ditto Powar,	Behadōor Nugur,	_____
	Bhag Sing,	Goolzar,	30	ditto,	_____	_____
	Kheereea,	Bahoorae,	85	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	Hatras, ...
	Purtaub,	Beedhee Chund,	40	Ditto Rhatore,	Dholpore, ...	Baree, ...
	Thana <i>alias</i> Thanooa,	Adopted by Boodha Je- madar,	30	Ditto Chohan,	Googaon, ...	Mohumdee, ...
495	Kewul,	Chand Khan,	30	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Nahureea,	Seetaram,	30	Meena,	_____	_____
	Hurgobind,	Teejah,	20	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____
	Hunsa,	Shumsher,	35	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
500	Gokla,	Ram Sing,	25	Ditto Bhatee,	_____	_____
	Buljeeta,	Beerbul,	60	Bagra Rhatore,	_____	_____
	Kulla,	Bulloo,	35	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____
	Kassee,	Mohasing,	40	Ditto Chohan,	_____	_____
	Seetaram,	Myteea,	50	Ditto Solunkee,	Kanteewar, ...	_____
	Sunnoo,	Bacha,	65	Kunjur,	_____	_____
	Herchunda,	Buckta,	45	Budhuk Rhatore,	_____	_____
505	Taroo,	Khereea, .....	...	ditto,	_____	_____
	Khema,	Newulsing, .....	...	ditto,	_____	_____

RESIDENCE.	Final order and date of Sentence.	Where made Approver.	REMARKS.
Zillah.			
Oude,	Imprisonment for life 28th December 1841.	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Lucknow,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police
ditto,	Ditto, 31st ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Bareilly,	Ditto, 29th ditto,	By the Commissioner of Da-coitee at Moradabad,	ditto ditto.
Gwalior,	Imprisonment for life, 3rd January 1842,	By the Commissioner of Da-coitee at Moradabad,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
Agra,	Ditto, 4th ditto,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Lucknow,	ditto ditto.
Goruckpoor,	Ditto, 15th ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 13th ditto,	By the Commissioner of Da-coitee at Moradabad,	ditto ditto.
Oude,	Ditto, 22nd ditto 1841,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 22nd November ditto,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Agra,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 19th March 1840, ...	Ditto at Lucknow,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 22nd December 1842,		
Muzzaffurnugurh, ...	Ditto, 23rd January 1845, ...	Ditto in Rohilcund,	In the Police of the Dumoh district.
ditto,	Ditto, 17th April 1844,	Ditto at Lucknow,	Present at Shahjehanpoor.
ditto,	Ditto, 23rd January 1845,...	Ditto in Rohilcund,	In the Police of the Dumoh district.
ditto,	Ditto, 26th February ditto,	By the Commissioner of Da-coitee,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Not yet committed,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Goruckpoor,	With Dullya on the Goruckpoor grant.
ditto,	ditto,	Ditto at Azimghur,	Employed in the Police of the Sarun district.
Hatras,	Imprisonment for life, 25th November 1841,	By the Commissioner of Da-coitee at Moradabad,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
Oude,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	In the Police of the Jubbulpoor district.
ditto,	Ditto, 18th January 1843,...	ditto ditto,	Ditto Dumoh ditto.
Hatras,	Ditto, 6th October 1841, ...	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Lucknow,	Died, 15th November 1846 at Lucknow.
Agra,	Ditto, 5th January 1842, ...	ditto ditto,	With Captain Ross in the Jalone Police.
Oude,	Ditto, 10th ditto 1842, ...	By the Commissioner of Da-coitee at Moradabad,	In the Police of the Hushingabad district.
ditto,	Ditto, 26th February 1845,	ditto ditto,	Died, 3rd October 1847.
ditto,	Ditto, for 14 years, 24th November 1841,	By the Asst. Genl. Supt. at Agra,	Ditto, 23rd July 1845.
ditto,	Ditto, 10th January 1846,...	Ditto at Nusseerabad,	Present at Jhansee.
ditto,	Ditto, for 5 years, 28th April 1845,	Ditto at Ahmedabad,	Ditto at Ahmedabad.
ditto,	Ditto, for life, 28th ditto,	ditto ditto,	Ditto at Nusseerabad.
ditto,	Ditto, 14th January 1846, ...	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, for 5 years, 15th ditto,...	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, 7 years, ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
Kanteewar,	Ditto, 2 years, 2nd May 1845,	ditto ditto,	Present at Ahmedabad.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	Ditto, for life, 21st September 1844,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	ditto ditto,	ditto ditto.

Name.	Parentage.	Age.	Caste.	PLACE OF		
				Village.	Pergunnah.	
Must. Indurporee, ...	Newulsing, .....	....	...	Budhuk Rhatore,	Kanteewar	Mohumdee, ...
Soojan,	Phopi,	40	Ditto Solunkee,	Googaon, ...	_____	_____
Motee,	Roopa,	30	ditto,	_____	_____	_____
Pirthee,	Futeh,	35	ditto,	_____	_____	_____
Jora,	Mootee,	25	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____	_____
Tooga,	Khujanea,	40	Budhuk Solunkee,	_____	_____	_____
Pauna,	Huvrea,	30	ditto	_____	_____	_____
Pursa,	Pirthee,	45	Ditto Ghylote,	_____	_____	_____
Badaum,	Behma,	40	Ditto Powar,	_____	_____	_____
Ummursing,	Taikeea,	25	Ditto Rhatore,	_____	_____	_____
Doolayrae,	Phoopee,	25	Ditto Solunkee,	_____	_____	_____
Bhuktawur,	Bukshee,	25	Ditto Rhatore,	Ojapoor, ...	_____	_____
Byreesal,	Mohuna,	20	Ditto Charun,	Gotra Manick- poor,	_____	_____
Bhoogah,	Rajaram,	35	Ditto Chohan,	_____	_____	_____
Nowla,	Nooreea,	40	Ditto Powar,	_____	_____	_____
Khoshalla,	Lalsing,	25	Ditto Bhattee,	_____	_____	_____
Munnoo,	Khureea,	50	Ditto Solunkee,	Gopaulghur, ...	_____	_____
Mohumma,	Bhowany Jemadar,	18	Ditto Chohan,	Ojapoor, ...	_____	_____
Gouda <i>alias</i> Chowning,	Dillaput,	24	Kunjur,	Chuteesghur, ...	_____	_____
Kullosa,	Ludea,	30	ditto,	_____	_____	_____

JHANSI :
The 2nd July, 1848. }

RESIDENCE.		Final order and date of Sentence.	Where made Approver.	REMARKS.		
Zillah.						
Kanteewar,	Imprisonment for life, 21st September, 1844,	.....	By the Asst. Genl. at Ahme- dabad,	.....	Present at Jubbulpoor.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	Jhansi,	.....	Police at Jalone.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	Scind Tooman under Captain Ellis.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	ditto ditto.
Oude,	ditto,	.....	Jhansi,	.....	Police at Jalone.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	Gwalior Tooman under Captain Ellis.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	ditto ditto.
Kurowlee,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	ditto ditto.
Alwur,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	ditto ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	Present at Jhansi under ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	ditto ditto.
Kurowlee,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	Gwalior Tooman under Captain Ellis.
Nagpoor,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	Present at Jhansi under ditto.
ditto,	ditto,	.....	ditto ditto,	.....	ditto ditto.

W. H. SLEEMAN,

General Superintendent for the Suppression of Thuggee.

List of such of the Dacoitees described in the Narratives of the Buduk Dacoits as have, on reference to

Number.	Dacoitee committed by whom.	Date of Dacoitee.	Upon whom.	WHERE PERPETRATED.		
				Village.	Purgunnah.	District.
1	Jeypore, ..	1803, ..	Camp of Kureem Khan, ..	Dharanagur, ..	.. ..	Indore, ..
	Oude Turac, ..	1807, ..	Mukhoo Lal, merchant, ..	Futtehpoor, ..	Futtehpoor, ..	Futtehpoor, ..
	Chumbul, ..	1808, ..	House of Dhuneeram, ditto, ..	Bagtunee, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
	Oude Turac Buduks, ..	1809, ..	Near Choonakharee, money in transit, belonging to Gopual, merchant, ..	Maukhun, ..	Madhooa, ..	Moorshedabad, ..
5	Agra Buduks, ..	3rd Nov. 1809,	Treasure of Dulsookrae, ditto, ..	Burasoorpoor, ..	Soman, ..	Mynporee, ..
	Oude Turac Buduks, ..	1809, ..	House of Naren, ditto, ..	Bharaeeh, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
	Oude Turac, ..	1810, ..	Goorpershad merchant's house, ..	Chandurhkt, ..	.. ..	Moorshedabad, ..
	Ditto, ..	13th Aug. 1810,	Ghooreyhaut Company's treasure, ..	.. ..	.. ..	Tirhoot, ..
	Ditto, ..	1810, ..	On the house of a Mahajun at Syf-gunge, ..	Syfgunge, ..	.. ..	Purneah, ..
10	Ditto, ..	1810, ..	House of Ghasee, merchant, ..	Khyrabad, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
	Ditto, ..	1811, ..	Akhureegunge, ..	Akhureegunge, ..	.. ..	Moorshedabad, ..
	Muthra, ..	1811, ..	Gobindass, ..	Mhow, ..	.. ..	Bundelcund, ..
	Agra, ..	1811, ..	House of Sodree, money changer, ..	Punna, ..	.. ..	Ditto, ..
	Jeypore, ..	4th Feby. 1812,	Sorawun Soogee, ..	Koonch, ..	Calpee, ..	Ditto, ..
15	Dholepore, ..	1813, ..	Silk merchants, ..	Burgur, ..	.. ..	Banda, ..
	Aleeghur, ..	1813, ..	Poorundas, money changer, ..	Hutta, ..	.. ..	Saugor, ..
	Ditto, ..	1813, ..	House of Nuthoo, merchant, ..	Burwasagur, ..	.. ..	Jhansee, ..
	Gwalior, ..	1813, ..	Ditto Moordun, Brahmin, ..	Khakees, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
	Dholepore, ..	Feby. 1814, ..	Ranchund, merchant, in transit from Mirzapore, ..	Khupta, ..	.. ..	Banda, ..
20	Jeypore, ..	1814, ..	Moogaram, banker, ..	Gwalior, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
	Chumbul, ..	1814, ..	Mahomed Hosseyn Pindara, ..	Baesyn, ..	.. ..	Bhopaul, ..
	Oude Turac, ..	1814, ..	House of Baluckram, merchant, ..	Chundunapoor, ..	Amnaneegunge, ..	Oude, ..
	Aleeghur, ..	12th Oct. 1814,	House of Churn Doss, ditto, ..	Shaharunpoor, ..	.. ..	Shaharunpoor, ..
	Oude Turac, ..	1814, ..	House of Golab Sing, ..	Rampoor, ..	Rampoor, ..	Rampoor, ..
25	Oude, ..	1814, ..	House of Hyat Khan, charcoal merchant, ..	Fyzabad, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
	Dholepore, on the Chumbul, ..	1814, ..	Buffaloes, laden with Silk, belonging to Gungaram and Co., merchants of Jhansee, ..	Jhereo, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
	Oude Turac Buduks, ..	3rd May 1815,	Government Treasury, ..	Mughur, ..	Domoreeagunge, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
	Kurroulee, ..	Dec. 1815, ..	Sadaram and Co., ..	Mhow, ..	Churkaree, ..	Bundelcund, ..
30	Oodahpore, ..	6th Feby. 1815,	Sahibram and Ranchund, ..	Deedwara, ..	Ditto, ..	Ditto, ..
	Oude Turac, ..	1815, ..	Two Camels, laden with treasure, from Gujadhur, ..	Mahomedpoor, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
	Hatrus, ..	1815, ..	House of Seobukus, ..	Khyrabad, ..	.. ..	Ditto, ..
	Ditto, ..	29th March 1816,	Surdhogur, ..	Sereegunge, ..	Gopalpoor, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
	Aleeghur, ..	1816, ..	House of Lala, a salt merchant, ..	Kesreegunge, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
	Oude Turac Buduks, ..	4th May 1817,	Ramdhun merchant's house, ..	Bundurbazah, ..	.. ..	Rungpoor, ..
35	Jeypore, ..	1817, ..	Merchants, ..	Achrole, ..	.. ..	Jeypoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	18th Aug. 1817,	Pemraj and Kunkoreea, bankers, ..	Akheegur, ..	.. ..	Bhurtpoor, ..
	Oude Turac, ..	1st Jany. 1817,	Four hackeries, with treasure, from Ranchund, ..	Budlapoor, ..	.. ..	Juanpoor, ..
	Koel, ..	1817, ..	Kesceeram, merchant, ..	Mahomdee, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
40	Ditto, ..	1817, ..	Jyram, ditto, ..	Seetapoor, ..	.. ..	Ditto, ..
	Oude Turac, ..	1817, ..	Cart, laden with treasure, from Noubutrae, ..	Aurpeet, ..	.. ..	Ditto, ..
	Oude Turac Buduks, ..	4th May 1818,	On the house of Teeluckram, ..	Hurlokee, ..	Bhola, ..	Tirhoot, ..
	Ditto, ..	1st March 1818,	Dowlut Row and Raghoo Row, ..	Jhoosee, ..	.. ..	Allahabad, ..
	Jeypore, ..	21st Sept. 1818,	Ragonath, shoraff, ..	Tonk, ..	.. ..	Tonk, ..
	Hondoun, ..	2nd Dec. 1818,	Shadeeram and Nathooram, ..	Ditto, ..	.. ..	Ditto, ..

Local Authorities, been found to have taken place, as described by them, from 1803 to the present time.

No. of Dacoits.	Killed.	Wounded.	Amount taken.	Arrested.	Convicted.	REMARKS.
0	0	0	20,000 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Meyda confirmed on reference to Indore.
0	0	2	6,000 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's deposition confirmed on reference to local authorities.
32	3	8	3,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
0	3	Several,	30,000 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Teebhoo confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	2	4	4,069 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's ditto ditto.
40	3	2	5,900 0 0	..	..	Sawunt Sing's ditto ditto.
0	0	0	3,000 0 0	..	..	Teebhoo's ditto ditto.
0	5	8	20,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
0	1	4	675 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
32	1	1	2,500 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's ditto ditto.
0	0	0	0 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Teebhoo confirmed on reference to local authorities. The treasure being in a large iron box, the robbers could neither break it nor carry it away.
50	0	0	1,000 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Omeda confirmed on reference to ditto.
25	1	6	1,200 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's ditto ditto.
0	1	9	Investment of	..	..	Ditto ditto, on reference to Humeerpore.
0	2	4	cloth, ..	..	..	Ramjeet's deposition confirmed on reference.
19	2	6	8,000 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's ditto ditto.
24	3	2	1,760 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
35	4	9	400 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
0	2	6	50 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
0	1	3	Investment of	..	..	Ramjeet's, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	1	1	cloth, ..	..	..	Deposition of Meda Sing at Chupra, confirmed on reference.
24	3	3	8,000 0 0	..	..	Meyda's ditto ditto.
40	1	10	16,000 0 0	..	..	Luckha's ditto ditto.
70	6	8	0 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's ditto ditto.
25	2	8	558 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's and Popuh Sing's ditto ditto.
			17,000 0 0	..	..
			Amount not stated, ..	8	8	Buldeo, son of Josee, and eight dacoits executed by the Amil.
20	Several men killed and wounded, number not known, ..		800 0 0	..	..	Kulla, son of Josee, confirmed on reference.
0	1	1	20,678 0 0	2	2	See Mr. Currie's letter and Mr. Read's Report.
0	3	9	10,000 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Ramjeet, confirmed on reference.
24	2	4	13,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
30	1	12	28,000 0 0	..	..	Sawunt Sing's deposition ditto ditto.
15	3	0	2,000 0 0	..	..	Luckha's ditto ditto.
0	1	1	4,478 0 0	1	1	See Mr. Currie's letter and Mr. Read's Reports.
25	0	3	40 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's deposition confirmed on reference.
0	0	0	4,000 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Teebhoo ditto ditto.
25	2	6	300 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ramjeet ditto ditto.
40	1	6	100 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
0	0	5	27,259 0 0	..	..	Sawunt Sing's deposition ditto ditto.
25	1	0	4,000 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's ditto ditto.
30	5	2	421 0 0	..	..	Luckha's ditto ditto.
35	2	5	40,000 0 0	..	..	Buldeo, son of Josee, ditto ditto.
0	1	3	261 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Teebhoo confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	1	Several,	28,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Zalim Sing at Chupra ditto ditto.
6	1	0	5,067 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Ramjeet confirmed on reference to local authorities.
25	2	2	3,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.

Number.	Dacoitee committed by whom.	Date of Dacoitee.	Upon whom.	WHERE PERPETRATED.		
				Village.	Purgunnah.	District.
95	Oude Buduks, ..	1822, ..	Banker's treasure, ..	Natora, ..	Pertaubgur, ..	Oude, ..
	Ditto, ..	28th March 1822,	Kadar Bukah, Pindara Chief, ..	Goruckpoor, ..	.. ..	Goruckpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	1822, ..	Banker's treasure, ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
	Ditto, ..	1822, ..	Ditto ditto, ..	Sahibgunge, ..	Gogow, ..	Oude, ..
	Oude, ..	13th Dec. 1822,	Eursookdas and others, ..	Ghatumpoor, ..	.. ..	Cawnpoor, ..
100	Jeypore, ..	4th Jan. 1822,	Treasure Bearers, ..	Pooree, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	1822, ..	Niburseelol, merchant, ..	Aleebad, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
	Oude, ..	1822, ..	Luluk, ditto, ..	Begumgunge, ..	.. ..	Ditto, ..
	Ditto, ..	1822, ..	Jaun Brahmin, ..	Moobaruckpoor, ..	Nubbeenuggur, ..	Ditto, ..
	Jeypore & Kurrowlee, ..	1822, ..	Three ponies laden with merchandize going from Poona to Ojeyn, ..	Samer, ..	.. ..	Ojeyn, ..
105	Oude, ..	1822, ..	On Kasseeram, ..	Ussaree, ..	Bhoor, ..	Oude, ..
	Oude Turae Buduks, ..	18th April 1823,	On the house of Bhoondoo, spirit vendor, ..	Porurgeea, ..	Pidrona, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	1st Sep. 1823,	Bheekun, ..	Hulardonga, ..	Domoreeagunge, ..	Ditto, ..
	Ditto, ..	17th Dec. 1823,	Government treasure, ..	Bhowadeh, ..	.. ..	Nepaul, ..
	Chumbul Buduks, ..	1823, ..	Treasure on 16 ponies, ..	Dongurgow, ..	.. ..	Kotah, ..
110	Oude, ..	1823, ..	.. ..	Jugdeespoor, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	11th April 1823,	Roopchund, sugar merchant, ..	Dhumabar, ..	Besa, ..	Ghazeepoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	7th Feb. 1823,	House of Chojoon, merchant, ..	Meergunge, ..	.. ..	Jounpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	9th May 1823,	House of Darbaree, ditto, ..	Lalgunge, ..	.. ..	Azimghur, ..
	Ditto, ..	7th Jan. 1823,	House of Deepoo, ditto, ..	Deeha, ..	Chatrakote, ..	Ditto, ..
115	Ditto, ..	1823, ..	House of Pooramul and Muckers, ditto, ..	Biswa, ..	Khyrabad, ..	Oude, ..
	Ditto, ..	10th June 1823,	House of Jykishen, ditto, ..	Sethul, ..	Nowabgunge, ..	Bareilly, ..
	Ditto, ..	1823, ..	House of Nensook Khutree, ..	Baraech, ..	Baraech, ..	Oude, ..
	Ditto, ..	1823, ..	Gobindass Kasee of Boral, in Kotah, ..	.. ..	.. ..	Kotah, ..
	Ditto, ..	1823, ..	Mahomed Hossein, Pindara of Raesein Bhopal, ..	.. ..	.. ..	Bhopal, ..
120	Chumbul Buduks, ..	Jan. 1824,	Four camel loads of cloth of Girdharee, ..	Deoleea, ..	.. ..	Ajmere, ..
	Oude Turae Buduks, ..	1824, ..	Government treasure, ..	Budlapoor, ..	.. ..	Jounpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	1824, ..	Merchant's ditto, ..	Hureea, ..	.. ..	Allahabad, ..
	Ditto, ..	1824, ..	Banker's ditto, ..	.. ..	.. ..	Pillibheet, ..
	Oude, ..	30th April 1824,	Doomreelal, ..	Ahmudgunge, ..	.. ..	Behar, ..
125	Oude Turae, ..	19th Oct. 1824,	House of Moorah, spirit merchant, ..	Khyrpoor, ..	Malool, ..	Azimghur, ..
	Ditto, ..	16th Nov. 1824,	House of Imrutlol, merchant, ..	Lotah, ..	.. ..	Benares, ..
	Ditto, ..	1824, ..	Treasure Bearers, ..	Rahmutgunge, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
	Buduks, ..	1824, ..	Ramsing Seth, Soojalpoor, Gwalior, ..	.. ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
	Oude Turae Buduks, ..	12th Oct. 1825,	Adjoodeah, shopkeeper, ..	Budowlee, ..	Bhaupoor, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
130	Ditto, ..	4th Dec. 1825,	Government treasure, ..	Bhurdict, ..	Munsoogunge, ..	Ditto, ..
	Ditto, ..	1825, ..	Ditto ditto, ..	Badshahpoor, ..	.. ..	Jounpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	1825, ..	Ditto ditto, ..	Purneah, ..	.. ..	Purneah, ..
	Gwalior, ..	15th April 1825,	Kesree, banker, ..	Dholepoor, ..	.. ..	Dholepoor, ..
	Jeypore, ..	28th March 1825,	Merchants on their way from Hyderabad, ..	Nuggur, ..	.. ..	Jeypore, ..
135	Chumbul Buduks, ..	1825, ..	One camel belonging to traveller, ..	Dhondur, ..	Munsoor, ..	Indore, ..
	Oude, ..	1825, ..	Terechund, sugar merchant, ..	Mujhasee, ..	Moofteegunge, ..	Jounpoor, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	1825, ..	Suda Sing, Radakisson, and Dowar-kadas, merchants, ..	Aleegunge, ..	Lucknow, ..	Oude, ..
	Ditto, ..	1825, ..	House of Rambukah, ditto, ..	Midnagunge, ..	Pertaubgur, ..	Ditto, ..
	Ditto, ..	1825, ..	House of Hyder Ally, ..	Byrungee, ..	.. ..	Jounpoor, ..
140	Ditto, ..	Dec. 1825,	Thirteen treasure bearers on their way from Lucknow to Cawnpoor, ..	Gurukura, ..	Mohan, ..	Oude, ..
	Kurrowlee and Gwalior, ..	19th Jan. 1825,	On property laden on two ponies belonging to Jowherimul, merchant of Futtehpoor, ..	Cherowla, ..	Khajroad, ..	Gwalior, ..

No. of Dacoits.	Killed.	Wounded.	Amount taken.	Arrested.	Convicted.	REMARKS.
0	0	0	6,000 0 0	..	..	Mr. Currie's letter, 15th July 1839.
0	2	6	6,000 0 0	..	..	Treasure on its way to Nagpoor. Mr. Currie's letter, 15th July 1839.
0	0	0	9,000 0 0	..	..	See Mr. Currie's letter, 15th July 1839.
0	0	0	6,000 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Phool Sing, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
60	2	17	9,319 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ramjeet, ditto ditto.
50	1	0	36,000 0 0	..	..	Ghureeba's deposition, ditto ditto.
0	0	0	125 0 0	..	..	Lucka's ditto ditto.
21	4	0	400 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's deposition, confirmed on reference.
50	1	0	2,000 0 0	..	..
25	2	0	22,000 0 0	..	..	Ajeet Sing's ditto ditto.
8	2	1	900 0 0	1	1	Deposition of Buldeo, ditto ditto.
0	0	Several,	353 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ramjeet, ditto ditto.
0	0	2	6 8 0	1	1	Mr. Currie's letter and Mr. Read's report.
0	0	0	64,000 0 0	..	..	See Mr. Currie's letter, 27th September 1828, and Ghureeba and Ramjeet's depositions, confirmed on reference.
0	3	7	30,000 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Omur Sing, ditto ditto.
50	0	0	11,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ramjeet at Chupra, ditto ditto. See Mr. Currie's letter, 27th September 1828.
0	2	7	0 0 0	..	..	Ghureeba's deposition, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
25	1	0	50 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
0	0	0	1,300 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
28	1	25	400 0 0	..	..	Lucka's ditto ditto.
21	2	1	A sword and 2 vessels, ..	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
20	4	13	1,758 0 0	14	..	Buchraj's ditto ditto.
30	1	0	1,000 0 0	..	..	Dhurmoo's ditto, confirmed by a report from Captain Hollings.
25	0	0	1,000 0 0	..	..	Deposed by Omada, fiat and substantiated.
25	1	1	1,600 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
0	1	3	600 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Ajeet Sing, confirmed on reference.
0	0	0	32,000 0 0	..	..	See Mr. Currie's letter, dated 15th December 1828.
0	0	0	12,000 0 0	..	..	See Mr. Currie's letter, 15th July 1829. Treasure on its way from Mooradabad.
0	0	0	6,000 0 0	..	..	Treasure on its way from Lucknow. Mr. Currie's letter, 15th July 1829.
30	0	10	8,254 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Hunsa, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
22	0	4	87 0 0	..	..	Lucka's ditto ditto.
30	1	7	513 0 0	..	..	Ghureeba and Lucka's deposition ditto ditto.
30	2	17	Articles of property, ..	..	..	Kullean's ditto ditto.
38	2	4	2,000 0 0	2	..	Deposed to by Ajeet Sing Jemadar and substantiated.
0	1	0	809 0 0	1	1	Mr. Currie's letter and Mr. Read's report.
0	1	10	0 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
0	5	0	22,000 0 0	..	..	See Mr. Currie's letter, 27th September 1828.
0	0	0	10,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
6	1	0	1,200 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Buldeo, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
50	6	2	4,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ajeet Sing, ditto ditto.
0	0	3	10,000 0 0	..	..	Naher Sing's ditto ditto.
0	0	0	5,800 0 0	..	..	Lucka's ditto ditto.
0	4	4	2,995 0 0	..	..	Sudaram's ditto ditto.
60	0	0	100 0 0	..	..	Kullean's ditto ditto.
40	0	0	200 0 0	..	..	Ghureeba's ditto ditto.
28	0	2	8,500 0 0	..	..	Lucka and Hunsa's ditto ditto.
45	2	16	12,000 0 0	..	..	Ramjeet's ditto ditto.

Number.	Dacoite committed by whom.	Date of Dacoitee.	Upon whom.	WHERE PERPETRATED.		
				Village.	Purgunnah.	District.
142	Oude, ..	1825, ..	House of Ramdeen hulwace, ..	Baraech, ..	.. .. .	Oude, ..
	Ditto, ..	1825, ..	On a hackery laden with treasure, ..	Sussamdee, ..	Byswarra, ..	Ditto, ..
	Oude Turae Buduks, ..	7th Jan. 1826,	Meer Ackber Ally, ..	Hulwar Durza, ..	Domoreeagunge, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
145	Ditto, ..	15th Jan. 1826,	Bhowanydeen and Salikram, ..	Bulnea Bazar, ..	Bulnea Bazar, ..	Ditto, ..
	Ditto, ..	8th March 1826,	On a merchant, ..	Chowbeeka Surai, ..	.. .. .	Cawnpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	9th March 1826,	Gobind Naraen, ..	Kyangunge, ..	Kyoolgunge, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	4th May 1826,	Government treasure, ..	Muchleeshahur, ..	.. .. .	Jounpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	21st Dec. 1826,	Sooklal and Bakahee, bankers, ..	Bulnea Bazar, ..	Bulnea Bazar, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
150	Ditto, ..	1826, ..	Government Tehseeldaree, ..	Nuggur, ..	.. .. .	Ditto, ..
	Ditto, ..	13th May 1826,	Baboo Ramdoss, ..	Takheerabad, ..	Sasceram, ..	Shahabad, ..
	Ditto, ..	18th June 1826,	Khoshal Rao, ..	Shahabad, ..	.. .. .	Rampoor, ..
	Chumbul Buduks, ..	16th Jan. 1826,	A Banker of Bhopal, ..	Thajawalpoor, ..	.. .. .	Bhopal, ..
	Kurrowlee, ..	4th March 1826,	Jowherimul and Sojee, merchants, ..	Dabla, ..	.. .. .	Oodeepoor, ..
155	Oude, ..	31st Jan. 1826,	Merchants of Benares, ..	Kora Jahanaabad, ..	.. .. .	Futtehpoor, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	1826, ..	Meharban's house, ..	Amaneeagunge, ..	Mahona, ..	Oude, ..
	Budaon, ..	23rd Dec. 1826,	Kourchund, merchant, ..	Mangunge, ..	Moorutgunge, ..	Etawah, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	1826, ..	Treasure of Lauree Dass, ditto, ..	Hurdea, ..	.. .. .	Allahabad, ..
	Oude, ..	30th Nov. 1826,	On Sewpersaud's shop, ..	Lutena, ..	Lutena, ..	Etawah, ..
160	Gwalior, ..	1826, ..	On ponies laden with property, ..	Kakurrooa, ..	.. .. .	Gwalior, ..
	Gwalior Buduks, ..	15th March 1827,	On treasure bearers, ..	Humseergur, ..	.. .. .	Oodeepoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	18th April 1827,	Ratuna Lohar, ..	Baree, ..	.. .. .	Dholepoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	2nd May 1827,	Sookhlol Koormee, ..	Bundoree, ..	Domoreeagunge, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	19th Sep. 1827,	Nynaookh, merchant, ..	Yakootgunge, ..	.. .. .	Furruckabad, ..
165	Oude, ..	16th Dec. 1827,	Bhowanee and others, ..	Chundowsee, ..	.. .. .	Moradabad, ..
	Chumbul Buduks, ..	4th Dec. 1827,	Two camels laden with Spanish dollars, ..	Bugroo, ..	.. .. .	Jeypore, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	17th March 1827,	House of Kewalram, ..	Mudhoo Singh, ..	Bhurohee, ..	Mirzapoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	30th March 1827,	House of Bustee, merchant, ..	Amus, ..	Shereghur, ..	Behar, ..
	Ditto, ..	24th Feb. 1827,	House of Kalall, shopkeeper, ..	Ramnuggur, ..	.. .. .	Allahabad, ..
170	Chumbul Dacoits, ..	18th July 1827,	Three carts opium, belonging to Chota Brahmin, ..	Digges, ..	.. .. .	Jeypore, ..
	Oude, ..	1827, ..	Temple of Peterchund, ..	Bahmawut, ..	.. .. .	Oude, ..
	Gwalior, ..	2nd Feb. 1827,	A Brahmin, ..	Autree, ..	.. .. .	Gwalior, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	1827, ..	House of Gunesh, banker, ..	Nowbutgunge, ..	.. .. .	Oude, ..
	Ditto, ..	Jan. 1827,	Seven Travellers, ..	Lonee Kutra, ..	Hydurgur, ..	Ditto, ..
75	Ditto, ..	18th Feb. 1827,	House of Deepoota, sugar merchant, ..	Decha, ..	.. .. .	Azimghur, ..
	Ditto, ..	1827, ..	Cart laden with treasure, ..	Mosafir-khana, ..	.. .. .	Oude, ..
	Ditto, ..	1827, ..	House of Daveydeen, merchant, ..	Maharajgunge, ..	Kotra, ..	Ditto, ..
	Ditto Buduks, ..	1827, ..	House of Jyxisson and Co., merchants, ..	Mosahibgunge, ..	.. .. .	Ditto, ..
	Buduks, ..	1827, ..	A Shroff at Jeypore, ..	.. .. .	.. .. .	Jeypore, ..
80	Oude Turae Buduks, ..	17th Sep. 1828,	Bhowanee Buksh Solar, ..	Juntora, ..	Domoreeagunge, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	13th Sep. 1828,	Cheyaram, ..	Dhumora, ..	Buchroun, ..	Moradabad, ..
	Ditto, ..	12th Jan. 1828,	Government treasure, ..	Futtehpoor, ..	.. .. .	Futtehpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	12th April 1828,	Dhoomun Khan's treasure, on its way from Calcutta to Benares, ..	Aurangabad, ..	.. .. .	Behar, ..
	Rohilcund Buduks, ..	17th July 1828,	Koonjbeharee Loll and Co., merchants, ..	Jeswuntnugur, ..	.. .. .	Etawah, ..
85	Coel Aleegurh, ..	6th Oct. 1828,	House of Kunhyamul, merchant, ..	Phasoo, ..	.. .. .	Boolundahuhur, ..
	Oude, ..	10th May 1828,	Chotee Loll merchant's property, ..	Gosahesagunge, ..	Talegram, ..	Furruckabad, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	Jan. 1828,	Hackery laden with treasure, ..	Daranuggur, ..	Kora, ..	Allahabad, ..
	Ditto Buduks, ..	April 1829,	Sub-Collector's treasury, ..	Puteealee, ..	.. .. .	Furruckabad, ..
	Chumbul Buduks, ..	1829, ..	On treasure carriers, ..	Shamlee, ..	Charsoo, ..	Jeypore, ..
90	Oude Buduks, ..	27th Dec. 1829,	On a merchant's house, ..	Seosugur, ..	Sahseram, ..	Shahabad, ..
	Ditto, ..	21st Feb. 1829,	Gopauldas, merchant, ..	Lalgunge, ..	.. .. .	Mirzapoor, ..

No. of Dacoits.	Killed.	Wounded.	Amount taken.	Arrested.	Convicted.	REMARKS.
30	0	0	500 0 0	..	..	Dhurmoo's deposition, confirmed by Captain Hollings' report.
60	3	4	16,500 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's ditto, confirmed.
0	0	1	900 0 0	3	3	Mr. Currie's letter and Mr. Read's report.
0	0	4	1,821 0 0	3	3	Ditto ditto ditto.
0	0	11	21,000 0 0	18	..	Zalim Sing's deposition, confirmed on reference.
0	5	4	1,309 0 0	1	1	Mr. Currie's letter and Mr. Read's report.
0	0	0	5,000 0 0	..	..	Ramjeet's deposition, confirmed on reference.
0	1	3	1,143 0 0	5	2	Mr. Currie's letter and Mr. Read's report.
0	5	0	13,000 0 0	..	..	Mr. Currie's letter, 27th September 1827.
0	1	16	20,083 0 0	14	11	In gold mohurs. Nine dacoits, and 5 of the treasure bearers arrested; 3 sentenced to 6 months, 1 to 7 years' imprisonment, 3 released, 7 transported—2 of the 7 were treasure bearers. Reply to my proceeding sent with Ghureeba's statement. See Nizamut Adawlut's report, 27th September 1828.
0	4	4	3,000 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Ghureeba, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	2	4	2,000 0 0	2	..	Ditto of Ajeet Sing, ditto ditto.
35	2	10	38,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ramjeet, ditto ditto.
300	0	4	13,150 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Zalim Sing before Captain Ramsay, ditto ditto.
0	2	5	200 0 0	..	..	Toolsie's deposition, confirmed on reference.
0	0	14	82 0 0	..	..	Teloke's ditto ditto.
25	0	18	8,033 0 0	..	..	Lucka's ditto ditto.
40	2	7	833 0 0	2	..	Buldeo's ditto by statement from Etawah.
50	2	6	11,000 0 0	..	..	Sewa Buduk's deposition, confirmed on reference.
0	1	6	2,500 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Ajeet Sing, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	2	Several,	5,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Buldeo, confirmed on reference.
0	1	1	9 0 0	1	1	Mr. Currie's letter and Mr. Read's report.
0	2	8	10,000 0 0	35	2	Deposition of Prangeer, confirmed on reference.
30	2	10	5,642 0 0	5	..	Ditto of Sadanund and others, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	2	4	8,000 0 0	..	..	Nahur Sing's ditto ditto.
0	1	28	909 0 0	..	..	Ghureeba's ditto ditto.
0	2	2	277 0 0	10	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
36	0	2	89 0 0	..	..	Ramjeet's ditto ditto.
40	3	1	0 0 0	..	..	Ajeet Sing's deposition, confirmed on reference.
24	1	1	25 0 0	..	..	Lucka's ditto ditto.
25	2	4	2,000 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's ditto ditto.
40	5	1	200 0 0	..	..	Ghureeba's ditto ditto.
30	0	3	600 0 0	..	..	Lucka's ditto ditto.
30	0	4	1,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
30	0	3	12,000 0 0	..	..	Tulfee's ditto ditto.
30	0	0	200 0 0	..	..	Ghureeba's ditto ditto.
30	5	1	2,700 0 0	..	..	Kulecan's ditto ditto.
[15 or 16]	1	1	1,000 0 0	..	..	Deposed to by Ramjeet Jemadar and substantiated.
0	0	0	0 0 0	5	5	Mr. Currie's letter and Mr. Read's report.
0	1	9	1,592 0 0	2	..	Deposition of Praun Sing, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
40	1	8	3,231 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Lucka's, ditto ditto.
27	1	6	1,220 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
0	0	12	1,063 0 0	..	..	Sadaram's ditto ditto.
20	1	3	0 0 0	..	..	Dirghae's ditto ditto.
40	3	14	829 0 0	18	..	Ghureeba's ditto ditto.
60	1	13	1,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto and Lucka's ditto ditto.
0	1	7	11,000 0 0	23	2	Deposition of Teelokee, confirmed on reference.
0	1	1	44,000 0 0	12	..	Ditto of Umeer Sing and Seetaram, ditto ditto. The prisoners released by the Kurroulee Chief.
0	2	7	9,285 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Nechul, ditto ditto.
40	5	11	14,124 0 0	7	6	Ditto of Buldeo, ditto ditto.

Number.	Dacoitee committed by whom.	Date of Dacoitee.	Upon whom.	WHERE PERPETRATED.		
				Village.	Purgunnah.	District.
92	Oude, ..	7th July 1829,	Government treasure, ..	Phoolpoor, ..	Sekundur, ..	Allahabad, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	6th March 1829,	Munoolal, merchant, ..	Hamlet, ..	Shereghatee, ..	Behar, ..
	Rohilcund Buduks, ..	23rd Oct. 1829,	Seelcund, ditto, ..	Jalalabad, ..	Bhow, ..	Saharunpoor, ..
195	Oude Turae, ..	7th March 1829,	House of Luchee, money-changer, ..	Nowabgunge, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
	Ditto, ..	.. 1829, ..	House of Hurahye, merchant, ..	Biwannoo, ..	.. ..	Ditto, ..
	Oude Buduks, ..	4th Dec. 1830,	Treasure of Somote Rae, ditto, ..	Sursole, ..	Sursole, ..	Cawnpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	9th Dec. 1830,	Chuttoor Bhooj's treasure, ..	Arrun, ..	Shekoebad, ..	Mynpooree, ..
	Ditto, ..	8th Dec. 1830,	Jodaram, merchant, ..	Shojaugunge, ..	.. ..	Bhagulpoor, ..
200	Ditto, ..	16th Feb. 1830,	Peeroomul and Kourseyn, ditto, ..	Dharagunge, ..	.. ..	Allahabad, ..
	Oude Turae and Budaon, ..	28th May 1830,	House of Salikram, ..	Surkara, ..	.. ..	Moradabad, ..
	Chumbul Buduks, ..	Jan. 1830,	Treasure of Futteh Bohreea, ..	Behareepora, ..	Lalsont, ..	Jeypore, ..
	Koel Aleegur Buduks, ..	10th March 1830,	Cheynsook and Sanker, ..	Kotah, ..	Narkee, ..	Agra, ..
	Oude, ..	7th Feb. 1830,	Property belonging to Golab Rae and Bundurpoora, ..	Dooree, ..	Teoree, ..	Jubbulpoor, ..
205	Kurroulee and Gwalior, ..	20th March 1830,	Property on six camels, ..	Charoo, ..	.. ..	Jeypore, ..
	Subulghur, ..	.. 1830, ..	On cloth, ..	Chowkee Bungalur, ..	.. ..	.. ..
	Oude Buduks, ..	14th Jan. 1831,	Jhuma and Lukeman, ..	Behree, ..	Mhowranepoor, ..	Jhansee, ..
	Ditto, ..	9th Feb. 1831,	Heeraram, merchant, ..	Korut, ..	Koondurkhee, ..	Mooradabad, ..
	Dholepoor, ..	.. 1831, ..	Rotunlal and Ramdeen, bankers, ..	Mord, ..	Dhungace, ..	Shahabad, ..
210	Oude Turae, ..	1st April 1831,	Bheeckun Doss, merchant, ..	Suraba, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
	Gwalior, ..	.. 1831, ..	Three camels laden with property belonging to Chunderchan & Co., Bhilsa, ..	Naesuraa, ..	Beharae, ..	Ajmere, ..
	Chumbul Buduks, ..	6th Feb. 1832,	Mooltanchund Seth and Gungaram, ..	Bhunaee, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	Jan. 1832,	Merchant's house, ..	Mirzapoor, ..	.. ..	Ajmere, ..
	Ditto, ..	4th Jan. 1832,	Ramchund and Gopal Doss, ..	Dhungae, ..	.. ..	Mirzapoor, ..
215	Oude Turae Buduks, ..	.. 1832, ..	Ram Doss, merchant, ..	Mobarutgunge, ..	.. ..	Shereghatee, ..
	Ditto, ..	21st Feb. 1832,	Mohun, banker, ..	Jugdeepoor, ..	.. ..	Azinghur, ..
	Chumbul Buduks, ..	11th June 1832,	Sawunta, shopkeeper, ..	Mozcesuraa, ..	Belouttee, ..	Shahabad, ..
	Ditto, ..	.. 1832, ..	Shop of Surrupahook, ..	Nuggur, ..	.. ..	.. ..
	Oude, ..	18th Dec. 1832,	On Government treasure, ..	Almada, ..	.. ..	Agra, ..
220	Alwur Buduks, ..	.. 1832, ..	Four camels laden with treasure from Ajmere to Jeypore, ..	Burasonnee, ..	Bulona bazar, ..	Bhurtpoor, ..
	Oude, ..	19th Jan. 1833,	Treasure on bullocks, Government, ..	Oorae, ..	.. ..	Goruckpoor, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	24th Jan. 1833,	Bajeerow Feishwa's camp, Bithoor, ..	Bithore, ..	.. ..	Jeypore, ..
	Ditto, ..	19th March 1833,	Bulram, merchant, ..	Amroha, ..	.. ..	Bundelcund, ..
	Chumbul Buduks, ..	15th April 1833,	Rutteeram Brahmin, ..	Antree, ..	.. ..	Cawnpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	18th Sep. 1833,	Dhunnoo, comedian, ..	Bhosawur, ..	.. ..	Mooradabad, ..
	Ditto, ..	Nov. 1833,	Buldeo Sing, merchant, ..	Balungur, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
225	Oude Turae, ..	4th Dec. 1833,	Seetulmul, ditto, ..	Hunnooman-gunge, ..	.. ..	Bhurtpoor, ..
	Alwur Kurroulee Bagries, ..	.. 1833, ..	Treasure carriers, ..	Kaleekhol, ..	.. ..	Delhi, ..
	Kurroulee Bagries, ..	10th Aug. 1833,	Thakoordass and Essureedass, bankers, ..	Gurdolee, ..	.. ..	Allahabad, ..
	Chumbul Buduks, ..	21st Dec. 1833,	Bhujhoo merchant's house, ..	Bazee, ..	.. ..	Alwur, ..
	Oude Turae Buduks, ..	16th Jan. 1833,	Bucktawur Sing's hackery, ..	Sanota Surae, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
230	Gwalior Bagries, ..	.. 1833, ..	On the kafil of a merchant going from Bhilsa, ..	Lukhoo, ..	Sanota, ..	Bhurtpoor, ..
						Shahabad, ..
						Gwalior, ..

No. of Dacoits.	Killed.	Wounded.	Amount taken.	Arrested.	Convicted.	REMARKS.
26	2	15	44 0 0	6	..	Deposition of Kullean, confirmed on reference. The prisoners released by the Kurroulee Chief.
0	0	7	1,398 0 0	7	..	Ghureeba's deposition, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	3	20	221 0 0	..	..	Sudaram's ditto ditto.
18	0	0	3,000 0 0	..	..	Buldeo's ditto ditto.
0	25	0	0 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
0	0	7	25,000 0 0	9	..	Three burkundazas, 1 chuprasee, 3 men of the merchants, prisoners all released. Deposition of Pidroo, confirmed on reference.
0	0	5	15,000 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Heera and Motee, confirmed on reference.
22	0	1	1,190 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ghureeba, ditto ditto.
50	1	11	13,093 0 0	..	..	Kullean Sing's deposition, ditto ditto.
0	3	8	271 0 0	5	..	Ghureeba's ditto ditto.
0	1	Number not known,	2,400 0 0	3	..	Ramjeet's ditto ditto.
0	1	13	11,867 0 0	25	2	Sudaram's ditto ditto.
32	1	20	1,500 0 0	5	..	Lucka's ditto ditto.
40	3	2	5,000 0 0	..	..	Huree Sing's ditto ditto.
30	1	2	1,200 0 0	..	..	Nowajus' deposition, confirmed on reference.
0	2	8	42 0 0	14	..	Deposition of Soorja, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
22	0	10	9,870 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ghureeba, confirmed on reference.
24	3	0	250 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Buldeo, ditto ditto.
40	3	10	300 0 0	..	..	Ajeet Sing's deposition, ditto ditto.
35	3	2	10,000 0 0	..	..	Ramkishun's ditto ditto.
0	1	8	0 0 0	..	..	Ajeet Sing's ditto ditto.
0	0	0	40,000 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Sudaram, Budun Sing, and others, confirmed on reference; but the misul of the case, lost in the Magistrate's office.
0	4	6	70,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ooda and Gazee, confirmed on reference—treasure on its way from Calcutta to Benares.
0	4	8	416 0 0	1	1	Lala, one of the prisoners, got a spear in the thigh and fell dead—had two cuts of a sword on the same thigh before. Brother of Soorja, approver, whose deposition, confirmed on reference.
0	0	3	9,328 0 0	1	1	Deposition of Toolsee, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	0	1	158 0 0	42	..	Seetaram's deposition, ditto ditto.
0	2	2	20 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Bholah, ditto ditto.
0	4	9	0 0 0	14	..	Bhowanee's deposition, ditto ditto.
40	1	7	20,000 0 0	..	..	Dowlut's ditto ditto.
30	1	14	10,592 0 0	28	..	Goomanee's ditto ditto.
0	0	18	2,53,646 0 0	6	..	Deposition of Odda, ditto ditto.
0	1	12	2,319 0 0	13	..	Ditto of Sudaram, ditto ditto.
0	0	1	95 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ramjeet, ditto ditto.
0	2	3	43 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Seetaram, ditto ditto.
0	1	1	788 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Omur Sing, ditto ditto.
0	0	2	3,500 0 0	2	2	Ditto of Mohun, approver, ditto ditto.
32	5	0	3,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Huree Sing, ditto ditto.
15	1	3	903 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ramjeet, ditto ditto.
30	2	2	1,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ajeet Sing, ditto ditto.
30	2	14	2,276 0 0	1	1	Ditto of Goomanee, ditto ditto.
37	2	4	3,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Drigpanl, ditto ditto.

Number.	Dacoitee committed by whom.	Date of Dacoitee.	Upon whom.	WHERE PERPETRATED.		
				Village.	Purgunnah.	District.
233	Gwalior Bagries, ..	12th Oct. 1833,	House of Jalim Sing and Co., merchants, ..	Madhoopoor, ..	Sanota, ..	Jeypore, ..
	Ditto, ..	1833, ..	Rutteeram, mahajun, ..	.. ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
235	Oude Turae, ..	22nd Feb. 1833,	House of Mahomed Ashuck and Aleemollah, ..	Goalpoker, ..	Kishungunge, ..	Purneah, ..
	Mewar Bagries, ..	1833, ..	On four baskets of opium, property of Bahadurmul, ..	Teejarah, ..	Teejarah, ..	Tonk, ..
	Koel and Aleegur Buduks, ..	9th Jan. 1834,	Somermchund, ..	Aleegunge, ..	.. ..	Furruckabad, ..
	Budaon Ditto, ..	3rd Feb. 1834,	Government treasure, ..	Sakeet, ..	.. ..	Mynpooree, ..
	Alwur Bagries, ..	March 1834,	Banker's bag of money, ..	Meerut, ..	.. ..	Meerut, ..
240	Oude Turae Buduks, ..	8th Feb. 1834,	Bhan Sing, merchant, ..	Khorja, ..	.. ..	Boolundshahur, ..
	Gwalior Bagries, ..	Nov. 1834,	Gunesh, Brahmin, ..	Gadheela, ..	Harowtee, ..	Kotah, ..
	Alwur and Jeypore Ditto, ..	1834, ..	Ten treasure carriers, ..	Bhursur, ..	Guddenly, ..	Bhurtpoor, ..
	Alwur Buduks, ..	1834, ..	Radhakishun, banker, ..	Horul, ..	Gorgere, ..	Delhi, ..
	Ditto, ..	1834, ..	Thakoordass banker's house, ..	Pulwul, ..	.. ..	Ditto, ..
245	Muthra and Dholepore Bagries, ..	5th May 1834,	Ghasseeram and Jadoo, merchants, ..	Cheenoor, ..	Antree, ..	Gwalior, ..
	Alwur Bagries, ..	14th May 1834,	Sobharam, ..	Sahar, ..	Ortere, ..	Muthra, ..
	Gwalior Ditto, ..	4th Aug. 1834,	Beerbul and Ramkishun, ..	Jhuree, ..	Pulwar, ..	Gwalior, ..
	Buduks, ..	1834, ..	Buckatbullah of Jognair, ..	.. ..	.. ..	Agra, ..
	Alwur and Jeypore, ..	7th Dec. 1834,	Bhugwandass, ..	Furrucknuggur, ..	.. ..	Gorgow, ..
250	Gwalior, ..	May 1834,	Suddaram and Laljeet, ..	Suerora, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	1834, ..	Sooknundun, merchant, ..	Palee, ..	Sarudee, ..	Oude, ..
	Onde, ..	13th March 1834,	House of Boosing, ..	Nujeebabad, ..	.. ..	Bijnour, ..
	Gwalior, ..	17th Feb. 1834,	House of Koobehund, merchant, ..	Muksoonee, ..	Nurwar, ..	Gwalior, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	1st March 1834,	Kurhere Mull and Ramshae, bankers, ..	Rampoor, ..	Rampoor, ..	Rampoor, ..
255	Ditto, ..	11th March 1834,	House of Muthore and Kutuk, merchants, ..	Jeypore, ..	Bishunpoor, ..	Burdwan, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	1834, ..	House of Nuthera, merchant, ..	Baraach, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
	Chumbul Buduks, ..	Oct. 1834,	House of Dalchund, banker, ..	Khyragur, ..	.. ..	Agra, ..
	Jeypore ditto, ..	10th Aug. 1834,	Shop of Lakraj and Co., merchants, ..	Torah, ..	.. ..	Jeypore, ..
	Mewar, ..	1834, ..	On camels laden with grain, property of Gungadhur, ..	Pookharee, ..	Chawun, ..	Gwalior, ..
260	Ditto, ..	1834, ..	House of Zalimchund, ..	Bhurtoun, ..	Mehghur, ..	Indore, ..
	Chumbul Buduks, ..	1st June 1835,	Banker's house, ..	Achnera, ..	.. ..	Agra, ..
	Oude Turae Buduks, ..	25th Jan. 1835,	Government treasury, ..	Modha, ..	.. ..	Humeerpoor, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	1st Feb. 1835,	Bunseedhur, merchant, ..	Buxur, ..	.. ..	Shahabad, ..
	Ditto, ..	13th May 1835,	Dursun, shopkeeper, ..	Amaree, ..	Balochagur, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
265	Buduks, ..	1835, ..	Lookmun Saidmul, ..	Farrak, ..	.. ..	Agra, ..
	Ditto, ..	.. ..	Treasure bearers, ..	Gadawlee, ..	.. ..	Bhurtpoor, ..
	Alwur, ..	15th Aug. 1835,	Goberdhan Dass, ..	Sekundora, ..	.. ..	Jeypore, ..
	Rajpootana Ganga, ..	Dec. 1835,	Toekaram banker's house, ..	Aleepoor, ..	.. ..	Bhurtpoor, ..
	Oude Turae Ganga, ..	1835, ..	Treasure party attacked, ..	Piperath, ..	.. ..	On the road, ..
270	Alwur Buduks, ..	22nd Dec. 1835,	Hunsarj, merchant, ..	Jhureyna, ..	Hindone, ..	Jeypore, ..
	Kurroulee Bagries, ..	25th Sep. 1835,	Balkishun and others, ..	Ramkera, ..	Koshalpoor, ..	Ditto, ..
	Alwur Ditto, ..	26th Feb. 1835,	Puana Loll and Ramsook, ..	Munoharpoor, ..	.. ..	Ditto, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	25th Jan. 1835,	Kour Sing, ..	Askeen, ..	Daranunggur, ..	Bijnour, ..

No. of Dacoits.	Killed.	Wounded.	Amount taken.	Arrested.	Convicted.	REMARKS.
22	4	8	2,401 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Drigpaul, confirmed on reference.
25	0	0	95 0 0	..	..	Deposed to by Ramjeet, approver, and Rutteeram, plaintiff, ditto ditto.
20	1	8	7,448 0 0	18	..	Ditto Buchraj, confirmed by a report from the Magistrate of Purneah.
5	0	0	8,000 Rs. worth of opium.	..	..	Ditto Baleea, confirmed by a report from Mewar Agency.
25	0	3	27 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Suddaram, Bhowanee, and others, confirmed on reference.
40	2	12	17,414 0 0	116	..	Confirmed on reference.
8	0	0	0 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Omur Sing, confirmed on reference to local authorities, amount not known, bag full of value and copper money.
0	0	1	373 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
28	3	6	3,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Maha Sing, confirmed on reference,
30	4	8	6,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Beejeepaul, Ameer Sing, and Ajeet, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	1	1	400 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Umur Sing, confirmed on reference.
0	1	1	400 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
28	0	Several,	349 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Maha Sing, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
30	4	11	18 0 0	15	..	Ditto of Omur Sing, ditto ditto.
16	1	3	1,041 0 0	10	10	Ditto of Ramjeet, ditto ditto.
33	0	7	2,841 0 0	10	10	Ditto of Umur Sing, approver, verified.
20	0	5	267 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Mungleea, confirmed on reference.
20	0	3	401 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Cheyna, ditto ditto.
0	2	1	4,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Goomanee, ditto ditto.
9	0	2	2 0 0	2	..	Ditto of Amur Sing, ditto ditto.
25	0	1	6,449 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Drigpaul, ditto ditto.
6	0	2	174 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Amur Sing and Seetaram, ditto ditto.
30	1	6	2,090 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Luckha, ditto ditto.
40	2	1	200 0 0	..	..	Bunsee's deposition, ditto ditto.
17	0	4	857 0 0	..	..	Girdharee's ditto ditto.
32	1	3	2,308 0 0	..	..	Sobharam's ditto ditto.
5	0	0	4 loads of grain,	..	..	Deposition of Baleea, confirmed by a report from Gwalior authorities.
12	0	0	2,117 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto from Indore Agency.
0	0	1	360 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ajeet and Beejeepaul, confirmed on reference.
0	1	5	3,228 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Gunesah, ditto ditto.
0	0	7	22,972 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Nechul, ditto ditto.
0	0	7	188 8 0	..	..	See Mr. Currie's letter and Mr. Read's report.
21	0	0	307 0 0	..	..	Deposed to by Beejeepaul, approver, confirmed on reference.
36	6	4	6,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto, confirmed on a kyfeut from the Bhurtpoor Rajah.
30	4	3	Gold Coins. 180 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Umur Sing, confirmed on reference.
0	0	0	307 6 0	..	..	Ditto of Heeranund ditto ditto.
0	1	0	0 0 0	..	..	Repulsed, see Mr. Currie's letter, dated 27th September 1828.
0	0	1	25 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Ajeet Sing, confirmed on reference to local authorities
30	0	0	300 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Ramjeet, ditto ditto.
35	5	2	900 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Girdharee and Ramjeet, ditto ditto.
57	0	6	3,805 0 0	43	..	Ditto of Jalim, confirmed on reference.

Number.	Dacoitee committed by whom.	Date of Dacoitee.	Upon whom.	WHERE PERPETRATED.		
				Village.	Purgunnah.	District.
274	Gwalior Bagrees, ..	18th June 1835,	Sahib Rae, buneca, ..	Ramsoonee, ..	Daranuggur, ..	Gwalior, ..
275	Chumbul Buduka, ..	1835, ..	House of Rambukah and Barkalol, ..	Kuswahee, ..	..	Ditto, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	26th April 1835,	House of Munce, shopkeeper, ..	Kudjion, ..	Kudjion, ..	Futtehpoor, ..
	Chumbul Buduka, ..	1st Feb. 1835,	House of Lala Marwaree, ..	Bahradunda, ..	Gundhoor, ..	Jeypore, ..
	Gwalior Bagrees, ..	28th March 1835,	House of Tarachund, soukar, ..	Sawur, ..	..	Mewar, ..
	Neemuch ditto, ..	24th April 1835,	House of Chyna, buneca, ..	Sawa, ..	..	Ditto, ..
280	Gwalior and Jeypore, ..	28th April 1835,	House of Chundoo, ..	Bhugwuntgur, ..	..	Jeypore, ..
	Mewar Bagrees, ..	23rd Jan. 1835,	House of Futtehchund Tewary, ..	Baree, ..	Teejaree, ..	Tonk, ..
	Buduka Oude Turae, ..	1835, ..	A Sahookarut, Mirzapoor. ..	..	..	Mirzapoor, ..
	Mewar Bagrees, ..	1835, ..	House of Motee, ..	Nubbye, ..	Tirwah, ..	Indore, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	4th Jan. 1836,	Company's treasury, ..	Ghuroul, ..	..	Mynpooree, ..
285	Chumbul Buduka, ..	19th Jan. 1836,	Dyaram and Joolanath's house, ..	Muthura, ..	..	Muthura, ..
	Oude Turae ditto, ..	13th June 1836,	Doureloll, merchant, ..	Nanukmutta, ..	Phoora, ..	Philibheet, ..
	Chumbul ditto, ..	25th Dec. 1836,	House of Brahmun, ..	Kenhur, ..	Sheregurh, ..	Gwalior, ..
	Oude Turae ditto, ..	5th Dec. 1836,	Rampersaud and Co., merchants, ..	Fyzabad, ..	..	Oude, ..
	Chumbul ditto, ..	1836, ..	Two Camels laden with treasure, ..	Chastoo, ..	..	Jeypore, ..
290	Oude ditto, ..	5th March 1836,	Thackoor Seth's house, ..	Shahabad, ..	..	Oude, ..
	Ditto, ..	1836, ..	House of Moolchund, merchant, ..	Lucknow, ..	..	Ditto, ..
	Gwalior, ..	25th Feb. 1836,	House of Sewuckram and Surroopchund, ..	Eaaghur, ..	..	Gwalior, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	16th Jan. 1836,	Mohadeo, a silversmith's house, ..	Shahabad, ..	Lahurpoor, ..	Oude, ..
	Ditto, ..	Jan. 1836,	House of Sumpuldas, a money-changer, ..	..	..	..
295	Ditto, ..	1836, ..	Native Collector of Kuchooa, ..	Kahtasuraa, ..	..	Jounpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	11th Feb. 1836,	Shop of Tegchund, spirit-dealer, ..	Kuchooa, ..	..	Mirzapoor, ..
	Oodehpoor, ..	1836, ..	House of Motee, ..	Sukeeldeena, ..	Budhool, ..	Benares, ..
	Buduka, ..	1836, ..	Jusso of Joudhpoor, ..	Ghoesmanah, ..	Saudree, ..	Oodehpoor, ..
				Munboos, ..	..	Jeypore, ..
300	Mewar, ..	8th Aug. 1836,	House of Buchraj, ..	Mahgur, ..	Rampoora, ..	Indore, ..
	Chumbul Buduka, ..	Jan. 1837,	A salt merchant's house, ..	Agur, ..	Komphere, ..	Bhurtpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	31st Jan. 1837,	Lallchund Seth, ..	Syfoo, ..	Baree, ..	Dholepoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	11th Feb. 1837,	Kullean Shah and Beekumdas, ..	Jhansee, ..	..	Jhansee, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	26th Feb. 1837,	Shop of Byjoonath, buneca, ..	Thakoordwarah, ..	..	Mooradabad, ..
305	Ditto Buduka, ..	13th June 1837,	Damooas, ..	Paleca, ..	Seramow, ..	Shahjehanpoor, ..
	Chumbul ditto, ..	30th Nov. 1837,	Merchant's house, ..	Jugnere, ..	..	Agra, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	16th Dec. 1837,	House of Sookdeo, banker, ..	Anoopshohar, ..	..	Boolundshahur, ..
	Chumbul Buduka, ..	1837, ..	Merchant's house, ..	Achulgurh, ..	Chundelea, ..	Gwalior, ..
	Ditto, ..	6th Dec. 1837,	On three treasure carriers, ..	Sheodaspoor, ..	Chatsoor, ..	Jeypore, ..
310	Ditto, ..	1837, ..	On a Shroff's house, ..	Lalsouth, ..	..	Ditto, ..
	Oude Buduka, ..	Nov. 1837,	Rambukah merchant's house, ..	Busharutgunge, ..	Juspoor, ..	Rampoar, ..
	Jeypore, ..	6th June 1837,	Nuthooram and Heeraloll, bankers, ..	Malagur, ..	..	Gwalior, ..
	Gwalior Kurroulee, ..	30th Oct. 1837,	Beerbul, iron merchant, ..	Loharmundee, ..	Agra, ..	Agra, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	1837, ..	Rampersaud and Puruanee, ..	Fyzabad, ..	..	Lucknow, ..
	Buduka, ..	..	..	..	..	..
315	Chumbul gange	1837, ..	Gungabissen, shroff, ..	Lalsouth, ..	..	Jeypore, ..
	Ditto ditto, ..	1837, ..	Moonalol, sahooker, ..	Munohurpoor, ..	..	Ditto, ..
	Chumbul Buduka, ..	1837, ..	Four treasure bearers from Thakoor-das and Essureedas, ..	Nypooree, ..	Chirole, ..	Gwalior, ..

No. of Dacoits.	Killed.	Wounded.	Amount taken.	Arrested.	Convicted.	REMARKS.
12	1	2	462 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Ramjeet, confirmed on reference.
0	1	3	550 0 0	..	..	Maha Sing's deposition, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
25	1	7	417 0 0	..	..	Luckah's ditto ditto.
32	0	5	564 0 0	..	..	Maha Sing's and others, ditto ditto.
35	0	0	793 0 0	..	..	Balkishun, confirmed by a report from Gwalior Durbar.
40	0	2	1,593 0 0	..	..	Ditto, confirmed on reference to Captain Ellis, Asst. Resident, Gwalior.
25	3	6	610 0 0	..	..	Lutchmunna, ditto ditto.
40	0	0	3,733 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Baleea, confirmed by a report from Mewar Agency.
40	0	0	4,000 0 0	..	..	Misl lost, confirmed by the Mirzapoor Magistrate's Court.
10	0	1	2,350 0 0	..	..	Baleea, confirmed by a report from Indore Agency.
40	1	19	14,611 0 0	89	..	Deposition of Gazee, confirmed on reference; the whole of the men were released by the Magistrate.
0	3	1	6,490 0 0	48	..	Ditto of Amur Sing, and Ajeet Sing, ditto ditto. Dyaram, the merchant, and his son, both killed.
0	0	3	186 0 0	1	..	Ditto of Odda, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	0	2	400 0 0	..	..
0	Several	10	24,333 0 0	..	..	Odda's deposition, ditto ditto.
0	1	2	12,000 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Ajeet, ditto ditto.
0	4	3	260 0 0	..	..	Omur Sing's ditto ditto.
40	1	4	0 0 0	..	..	Odda's deposition, confirmed on reference.
30	0	0	11,907 0 0	..	..	Drigpaul's ditto ditto.
33	1	5	285 0 0	..	..	Luckha's ditto ditto.
30	0	4	400 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
26	2	8	910 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
30	0	3	2,925 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
21	0	0	891 0 0	..	..	Baleea, confirmed by a report from Mewar Agency.
40	0	2 or 3	1 Gun and 1 Tulwar	..	..	Deposed to by Soonjee, approver, and confirmed by the Political Agent, Jeypore.
18	0	0	3,594 4 0	..	..	Baleea, confirmed by a report from the Indore Agency.
0	1	2	424 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Ajeet and Beejeepaul, confirmed on reference.
0	2	15	5,874 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Seetaram, ditto ditto.
0	1	0	40,056 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Chynsa, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	4	24	3,072 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Khureea, ditto ditto.
0	1	14	1,318 0 0	Several	..	Ditto of Mohun, ditto ditto.
0	0	3	2,841 0 0	10	10	Communicated by the Agra Magistrate.
0	0	Several,	2,372 0 0	22	..	Deposition of Khureea, confirmed on reference.
0		6	7,000 0 0			Ditto of Amur Sing and others, ditto ditto.
0		1	45,374 0 0			Ditto of Ajeet Sing, ditto ditto.
0		0	400 0 0			Ditto of Amur Sing and Ramjeet.
0		3	20 0 0			Ditto of Toolsee, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
36		2	1,787 0 0			Ditto of Tooleea, ditto ditto.
66			5,796 0 0			Ditto of Ramjeet, ditto ditto.
40			40,337 0 0			Deposition of Ooda and Newal, approver, confirmed by a kyfeunt from the Kotwal of Fyzabad.
6			800 0 0			Ditto of Ramjeet Jemadar, verified by the Fouzdaree at Jeypore.
30			500 0 0			Ditto of Girdharee, approver, confirmed by the Political Agent at Jeypore.

1,449 Gold
Coins,

Ramjeet's deposition, confirmed on reference to local authorities.

Number.	Dacoitees committed by whom.	Date of Dacoitee.	Upon whom.	WHERE PERPETRATED.		
				Village.	Purgunnah.	District.
317	Oude Turae, ..	3rd April 1837,	On the house of Tiluck Chund, silk merchant, ..	Ragonathpoor, ..	Chirole, ..	Maunbhoom, ..
	Jeypore, ..	27th Aug. 1837,	House of Lalchund, merchant, ..	Heerapoor, ..	Malarna, ..	Jeypore, ..
	Buduka, ..	1837, ..	Dabee Doss and Munohurdos, ..	Bhilsa, ..	.. ..	.. ..
320	Gwalior, ..	29th Dec. 1837,	Mogul ka Surae, on the property of Apajee Pundit, ..	Mogul ka Surae, ..	.. ..	Seroun, ..
	Oodehpoor, ..	1837, ..	On four travellers, ..	Ukram, ..	Charun, ..	Gwalior, ..
	Oude Buduka, ..	1st March 1838,	Ramdhun, merchant, ..	Hafizgunge, ..	Hafizgunge, ..	Bareilly, ..
	Ditto, ..	March 1838,	Pemraj Brahmin, ..	Kemree, ..	.. ..	Rampoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	13th Dec. 1838,	Durgunjee banker's house, ..	Chupra, ..	.. ..	Sarun, ..
325	Ditto, ..	16th Aug. 1838,	Jugraj, merchant, ..	Ajeetpoor, ..	.. ..	Philibheet, ..
	Chumbul Buduka, ..	1838, ..	Hoosain Shah, fuqueer, ..	Munolee, ..	.. ..	Dholepoor, ..
	Jeypore, ..	20th March 1838,	Jesraj and Dharunchund, merchants, ..	Gungapoor, ..	Mewar, ..	Gwalior, ..
	Rampoor Rohilcund, ..	21st Feb. 1838,	Sew Sahae, ..	Mozuffurnuggur, ..	.. ..	Mozuffurnuggur, ..
	Muthura and Kurroulee, ..	22nd Dec. 1838,	Rajaram Beora, ..	Sojurea, ..	Segurwaree, ..	Gwalior, ..
330	Oude, ..	14th Dec. 1838,	Augud, spirit-dealer, ..	Guzragunge, ..	Arah, ..	Shahabad, ..
	Oude Turae Buduka, ..	1838, ..	The house of a Mahajun at Gungapore, ..	Tonk, ..	.. ..	Tonk, ..
	Ditto, ..	1838, ..	Sew Sahee Buckal, ..	.. ..	.. ..	Mozuffurnuggur, ..
	Gwalior and Kurroulee, ..	10th Aug. 1838,	Askurn and Heeraloll, merchants, ..	Simowlee, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
335	Gwalior, ..	12th April, 1838,	Esuree Sing, ..	Kuthar, ..	Pahargur, ..	Ditto, ..
	Ulwar, ..	1838, ..	House of Toolseeram, merchant, ..	Goolata, ..	Biwosa, ..	Jeypore, ..
	Oude, ..	2nd Jan. 1838,	House of Natha, ..	Sahanpoor, ..	Nujeebabad, ..	Bijnour, ..
	Alleghur, ..	1838, ..	House of Pema, merchant, ..	Suborooe, ..	Koomhere, ..	Koel, ..
	Oude, ..	29th May, 1838,	House of Incharam, merchant, ..	Bodzurna, ..	Shereghur, ..	Bareilly, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	Feb. 1838,	Ten mules laden with cloths, belonging to a merchant of Madhopoor, ..	Kutree, ..	.. ..	Jeypore, ..
340	Buduka, ..	1838, ..	Lalchund of Heerapoor, ..	Heerapoor, ..	.. ..	Ditto, ..
	Chumbul Buduka, ..	14th April, 1838,	House of Buktasa and Sowaklee, merchants, ..	Auggur, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	21st Nov. 1838,	On a godown in the village, Shahgunge, ..	Shahgunge, ..	Anglee, ..	Jounpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	16th Dec. 1838,	House of Shaik Buxoo, merchant, ..	Kunajah, ..	Dewar, ..	Pubna, ..
	Chumbul Buduka, ..	17th Jan. 1839,	On the house of Meyraj, ..	Basodah, ..	.. ..	Bhopan, ..
345	Ditto, ..	March 1839,	Banker's house, ..	Arneea, ..	.. ..	Tonk, ..
	Oude ditto, ..	11th April, 1839,	Naraindoss and Goomaneeloll, ..	Aalegunge, ..	.. ..	Furruckabad, ..
	Ulwar ditto, ..	12th July, 1839,	Junma and Johoree, bankers, ..	Bahadurgur, ..	.. ..	Delhi, ..
	Gwalior and Kurroulee, ..	25th Feb. 1839,	Nutram, merchant, ..	Burka Surae, ..	Antree, ..	Gwalior, ..
	Buduka, ..	1839, ..	Issuree Sing, Killadar of Koonch, ..	.. ..	.. ..	Ditto, ..
350	Chumbul ditto, ..	1st Feb. ..	House of Kaseeram, shopkeeper, ..	Rungoon, ..	Bhah, ..	Ditto, ..
	Oude ditto, ..	17th Feb. 1839,	House of Neeladhur, merchant, ..	Pulurd, ..	Reycha, ..	Philibheet, ..
	Gwalior ditto, ..	7th July, 1839,	Biddeeram, merchant, ..	Burragow Mohana, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
	Oude ditto, ..	31st Oct. 1839,	House of Rambukah, shopkeeper, ..	Purwar, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
	Oude Turae, ..	23rd Dec. 1839,	House of Thakura, merchant, ..	Mondawul, ..	Mokra, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
355	Ditto, ..	9th Feb. 1839,	House of Monohur, merchant, ..	Koochut, ..	Dewar, ..	Shahabad, ..
	Gwalior, ..	18th April 1839,	House of Munnolol, banker, ..	Seepree, ..	.. ..	Gwalior, ..
	Mewar, ..	1839, ..	On 12 buffalos laden with cloth, ..	Khoolarua, ..	.. ..	Ditto, ..
	Oude Buduka, ..	10th Feb. 1840,	Merchant's house, ..	Betta, ..	Chumparam, ..	Chupra, ..
	Ditto, ..	29th Feb. 1840,	Ditto, ..	Nathpoor, ..	.. ..	Purneah, ..
360	Oude Turae, ..	31st Jan. 1840,	Sewak and Dheera Punjear, merchants, ..	Pronera, ..	50 miles west from Mozuffurnuggur, ..	Tirhoot, ..

No. of Dacoits.	Killed.	Wounded.	Amount taken.	Arrested.	Convicted.	REMARKS.
30	4	16	12,931 0 0	..	..	Luckha's deposition, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
24	0	2	190 0 0	..	..	Doolarae's ditto ditto.
0	0	0	0 0 0	..	..	Verified by proceedings of Assistant Commissioner at Ajmere.
50	2	10	4,744 0 0	..	..	Luchmuna's deposition, confirmed by a report from the Gwalior Durbar.
7	0	0	7 0 0	..	..	Buleea's ditto ditto.
0	0	0	2,972 0 0	1	..	Deposition of Nehchul, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	2	0	5,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Roodur and Nuseebgeer, ditto ditto.
0	0	1	12,720 0 0	..	..	Communicated by the local authorities.
0	2	7	131 0 0	30	..	Deposition of Odda and others, confirmed on reference.
0	1	3	3,000 0 0	4	..	Communicated by the local authorities.
31	0	Several,	349 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Maha Sing, confirmed on reference to ditto.
80	1	5	331 0 0	12	..	Ditto of Ramdeen, ditto ditto.
20	2	3	2,427 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Heera Sing, confirmed on reference.
20	1	4	126 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Hunsa, ditto ditto.
21	0	6	300 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Ramjeet, approver, and proceedings of Assistant Commissioner at Ajmere.
30	1	5	331 8 0	28	16	Ten from Mozufferpoor Court and six from Meerut were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for life.
25	5	2	4,950 0 0	..	..	Heera Sing's deposition, confirmed on reference.
30	1	6	1,660 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Umur Sing, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
22	3	2	42 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Driggpaul, ditto ditto.
30	0	1	8 0 0	..	..	Budun's ditto ditto.
18	0	1	0 0 0	..	..	Driggpaul's ditto ditto.
3	0	4	98 0 0	1	..	Umer Sing's ditto ditto.
40	0	0	900 0 0	..	..	Ramjeet and Doolarae, ditto ditto.
24	0	3	190 0 0	..	..	Deposed to by Dooleh Rae, and verified by documents from Jeypore Court.
26	2	6	5,000 0 0	..	..	Subharam's ditto ditto.
50	1	6	647 0 0	14	3	Teeluckdharee, confirmed by a report from the Jounpoor Magistrate.
48	1	5	900 0 0	18	..	Ditto ditto Pubna, ditto.
0	1	2	8,000 0 0	..	..	Communicated to Captain Birch by Mr. Wilkinson, Political Agent, Bhopaul.
0	2	5	60,000 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Kulloo, confirmed on reference to local authorities.
0	0	1	1,131 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Nujeebgeer and Bhowanee, ditto ditto.
0	4	11	700 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Tobees, Jeychund, and others, ditto ditto.
27	1	1	7 0 0	..	..	Ditto of Heera Sing ditto ditto.
{ 18 } or { 19 }	0	0	1,660 0 0	..	..	Deposed to by Ummer Sing, verified by documents from the Resident at Gwalior.
0	2	1	464 0 0	..	..	Heera Sing's deposition, confirmed on reference.
40	0	2	779 0 0	4	..	Pidroo's ditto ditto.
25	2	4	2,075 0 0	..	..	Doolarae's ditto ditto.
70	3	0	130 0 0	..	..	Amur Sing's ditto ditto.
45	0	6	2,991 0 0	18	11	Munsa, son of Sawulea and Nundloll. These eleven men were afterwards released as innocent.
25	0	7	155 0 0	..	..	Teeluckdharee, confirmed by the Magistrate's report.
25	0	7	3,000 0 0	..	..	Luchmunah, ditto by a report from the Gwalior Durbar.
7	0	0	150 0 0	..	..	Baleea, ditto by a report from the Mewar Agency.
0	0	9	15,000 0 0	..	..	Communicated by Mr. Dampier, Supt. of Police, L. P.
0	3	15	4,500 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto.
21	2	0	5,589 0 0	18	..	Deposition of Sewdeen, alias Deena, &c.

Number.	Dacoitee committed by whom.	Date of Dacoitee.	Upon whom.	WHERE PERPETRATED.		
				Village.	Pergunnah.	District.
161	Gwalior, ..	24th Dec. 1840,	House of Boodhoo Srajee, ..	Rutlam, ..	Unknown, ..	Mahoodpoor, ..
	Nepaul, ..	3rd Jan. 1840,	House of Laljee, ..	Deepnuggur, ..	Sirreepoor, ..	Mewar, ..
	Mewar, ..	23rd April 1841,	On the house of Sookahnund, ..	Padwas, ..	Teejarah, ..	Oodapoor, ..
	Moud, ..	26th April 1841,	On camels laden with cloth, ..	Urneea, ..	Chounnohurgur, ..	Ditto, ..
165	Nepaul, ..	4th April 1842,	House of Secanee, mahajun, ..	Sonopoor, ..	.. ..	Purneah, ..
	Oude, ..	9th Feb. 1842,	House of Byjoo and Beneepersaul, ..	Juggurnathpoor, ..	Amodee, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
	Nepaul, ..	6th April 1842,	House of Doolar Baboo, ..	Basgow, ..	Soorjapoor, ..	Purneah, ..
	Gwalior, ..	31st Jan. 1842,	On a bag of money, ..	Seonda, ..	Dutteea, ..	Bundelcund, ..
	Oude Buduks, ..	.. ..	Government treasury, in a boat, on its way to Benares, ..	.. ..	.. ..	Benares, ..
170	Ditto, ..	.. ..	Treasure on camels, belonging to a banker, ..	Jogree, ..	.. ..	Allahabad, ..
	Ditto, ..	.. ..	Banker's treasury, ..	Bahadoorgunge, ..	.. ..	Rewah, ..
	Ditto, ..	17th Dec. 1843,	On the shop of Budreenath, ..	Biakoohur, ..	Etote, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
	Ditto, ..	13th May 1844,	On Oojuddeeah, ..	Roygunge, ..	.. ..	Oude, ..
174	Ditto, ..	14th June 1844,	On Pajoo, ..	Dhungree, ..	Khankote, ..	Goruckpoor, ..
						Total, ..
						Gold Coin, ..
						Spanish Dollars, ..
						Rupees, ..

JHANSI,
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, }
The 2nd July, 1848.

No. of Dacoits.	Killed.	Wounded.	Amount taken.	Arrested.	Convicted.	REMARKS.
35	1	3	500 Rs. worth of Opium.	..	..	Newajee, confirmed by a report from the Mahoodpoor authorities.
30	0	0	317 0 0	..	..	Deposition of Hursersaud, confirmed by the authorities at Purneah.
20	0	0	51 0 0	..	..	Baleea, confirmed by a report from the Mewar Agency.
7	1	2	80 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto by a report from Captain W. C. Birch.
40	1	10	420 8 0	..	..	Hursersaud, ditto ditto from Magistrate of Purneah.
30	0	0	909 13 0	..	..	Deposition of Ramdeen, ditto ditto from Goruckpoor authorities.
24	0	4	789 4 0	..	..	Ditto of Hursersaud, ditto by the authorities at Purneah.
8	0	0	500 0 0	..	..	Umur Sing's deposition, confirmed on reference.
0	3	0	30,000 Spanish dollars, ..	..	..	See Mr. Currie's letter of the 15th December 1828.
0	0	0	1,200 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto ditto.
0	0	0	8,000 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto 15th April 1839.
40	0	8	7,925 6 0	..	..	Oodha Sing's deposition, confirmed on reference.
4	3	12	300 0 0	..	..	Ditto ditto ditto ditto.
20	0	6	27 8 0	..	..	Dullea Sing Jemadar's ditto ditto.
0	516	1,270	25,01,576 9 0			
			viz.,			
0	0	0	1,639 0 0			
0	0	0	30,000 0 0			
0	0	0	24,69,937 9 0			

W. H. SLEEMAN,

General Superintendent for the

Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoitee.

Cost of the Establishment for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoitee, on the 1st May 1848.

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.								
Office Rent,	80	0	0					
Head Clerk,	150	0	0					
Thuggee Office Establishment,	411	0	0					
Dacoitee ditto ditto,	223	0	0					
Native Officers and Nujeebs,	160	0	0					
				1024	0	0		
SUPERINTENDENT AT JUBBULPOOR.								
Captain J. Sleeman,	1200	0	0					
Office Rent,	60	0	0					
Office Establishment,	212	0	0					
Native Officers and Nujeebs,	976	0	0					
Jail Establishment,	57	0	0					
				2505	0	0		
AGRA.								
Major J. Graham,	700	0	0					
Office Rent,	40	0	0					
Thuggee Office Establishment,	152	0	0					
Dacoitee ditto ditto,	69	0	0					
Native Officers,	502	0	0					
				1463	0	0		
RAJPOOTANNAH.								
Cornet A. Elliot, deputation allowance, ...	200	0	0					
Office Rent,	40	0	0					
Thuggee Office Establishment, ...	152	0	0					
Dacoitee ditto ditto,	20	0	0					
Native Officers and Nujeebs,	416	0	0					
				828	0	0		
ROHILCUND.								
Major Ludlow, at Shahjehanpoor,	700	0	0					
Office Rent,	40	0	0					
Thuggee Office Establishment,	100	0	0					
Dacoitee ditto ditto,	52	0	0					
Native Officers and Nujeebs,	394	0	0					
				1286	0	0		
AZIMGHUR.								
Lieutenant H. Ward,	700	0	0					
Office Rent,	40	0	0					
Office Establishment,	152	0	0					
Native Officers and Nujeebs, ...	446	0	0					
				1338	0	0		
KINGDOM OF OUDE.								
Captain Hollings, at Lucknow,	700	0	0					
Office Establishment, ...	197	0	0					
Jail ditto,	73	0	0					
Native Officers and Nujeebs,	192	0	0					
				1162	0			
MADRAS PRESIDENCY.								
Captain Edwards, at Bangalore, ...	700	0	0					
Office Rent,	40	0	0					
Office Establishment, ...	152	0	0					
Native Officers and Nujeebs,	412	0	0					
				1304	0	0		
Carried over...	...	...	...	10,910	0	0		

Brought forward,.....				.....	...	...	10,910	0	0
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.									
Captain C. Hervey, Belgaum,.....	700	0	0	1310	0	0			
Office Rent,	40	0	0						
Office Establishment, ...	152	0	0						
Native Officers and Nujeebs,	418	0	0						
HYDRABAD.									
Captain Newbold, deputation allowance,	200	0	0	32	0	0			
Office Rent,	40	0	0						
Office Establishment,	152	0	0						
Native Officers and Nujeebs,	332	0	0						
Paid by Hyderabad Government,				624	0	0	412	0	0
				592	0	0			
GWALIOR AND BUNDELCUND.									
Captain Ellis, deputation allowance,	200	0	0	412	0	0			
Office Rent,	40	0	0						
Thuggee Office Establishment,	152	0	0						
Dacoitee ditto ditto,	20	0	0						
Native Officers and Nujeebs,	1200	0	0	422	0	0			
Paid by Gwalior Government, .....										1592	0	0
				1200	0	0	84	0	0
Balance chargeable to British Government, .....				.....	.....	.....
INDORE.									
Captain Harris, deputation allowance,	200	0	0	422	0	0			
Office Rent,	40	0	0						
Office Establishment,	152	0	0						
Native Officers and Nujeebs,	230	0	0						
Paid by Government of Indore,				622	0	0	84	0	0
				200	0	0			
NAGPOOR.									
Captain Ramsay, deputation allowance,	200	0	0	84	0	0			
Office Rent,	40	0	0						
Office Establishment,	152	0	0						
Native Officers and Nujeebs,	84	0	0						
Paid by Nagpoor Government,				476	0	0	480	0	0
				392	0	0			
GUZERAT.									
Captain Fulljames at Ahmedabad, deputation allowance,	200	0	0	480	0	0			
Office Rent, ...	40	0	0						
Office Establishment,	42	0	0						
Native Officers and Nujeebs,	198	0	0						
Paid by Government of Bombay,				480	0	0	150	0	
Supreme Government,				240	0	0			
				240	0	0	150	0	
JUBBULPOOR SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY.									
Mr. Williams, Overseer,...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	150	0	
Total cost to the British Government, exclusive of subsistence of prisoners, &c., and other contingent charges, per mensem,							13,800	0	

MEMORANDUM.

Paid by British Government,	Rs. 13,800 0 0
Ditto by Native States,	2,384 0 0

Exclusive of the Oude Frontier Police, under the superintendence of Captain Hollings and control of the Resident, employed to aid the Magistrates of the bordering districts, viz., defrayed by the Oude Government,	16,184 0 0
Ditto by the British Government, as command allowance, for the Superintendent,	8,180 8 0
	200 0 0

Per mensem, 8,380 8 0

DESCRIPTION OF OUDE FRONTIER POLICE.

Captain Hollings, commanding,	Rs.	200 0 0
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UNDER CAPTAIN HEARSEY.

Captain Hearsey, commanding,	Rs.	500 0 0
Office Establishment, &c.,	„	240 0 0
1 Naib Resaldar,	30 0 0	
2 Jemadars,	60 0 0	
2 Duffadars,	50 0 0	
45 Sowars, at 20 each,	900 0 0	
		<hr/> 1,040 0 0

Infantry, consisting of 5 Companies.

1 Subadar,	Rs. 40 0 0
4 Ditto, 25 each,	100 0 0
5 Jemadars, at 14 each,	70 0 0
1 Havildar Major,	14 0 0
1 Drill Havildar,	13 0 0
5 Kote Havildars, at 10 each,	50 0 0
5 Color ditto,	45 0 0
28 Havildars, at 6 each,	196 0 0
40 Naicks, at 6 ditto,	240 0 0
1 Drum Major,	14 0 0
7 Drummers and Fifers, 7 each,	63 0 0
490 Sepoys, at 5 each,	2450 0 0
Establishments of Classys, Bhishties, Hackeries, and Camels, &c.,	403 0 0
	<hr/> 3,708 0 0

Detachment of Artillery.

5 Privates, at 6 each,	Rs. 30 0 0
4 Lascars, at 5 ditto,	20 0 0
7 Drivers, at 4 ditto,	28 0 0
	<hr/> 78 0 0
	<hr/> 5,766 0 0
Carried over,	5,766 0 0

Brought forward,..... 5,766 0 0

UNDER CAPTAIN ORR.

Captain Orr, commanding,	300 0 0
Office Establishment,	89 8 0
	<hr/> 389 8 0

Cavalry.

1 Jemadar,	25 0 0
4 Duffadars, at 20 each,	80 0 0
45 Sowars, at 20 ditto,	900 0 0
	<hr/> 1,005 0 0

Infantry.

2 Subadars,	53 0 0
2 Jemadars,	28 0 0
2 Kote Havildars,	20 0 0
2 Color Havildars,	18 0 0
12 Havildars, at 7 each,	84 0 0
16 Naicks, at 6 each,	96 0 0
190 Sepoys, at 5 each,	950 0 0
4 Drummers,	28 0 0
Establishment of Hurkarus, Bhishtics, and Moochees, &c., ...	143 0 0
	<hr/> 1,420 0 0
	<hr/> 2,814 8 0

Total Co.'s Rs. 8,580 8 0

JHANSI,
 GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, }
The 4th July, 1848.

W. H. SLEEMAN,
*General Superintendent for the
 Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoitee.*

